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THE NEWSPAPER FOR MAIDSTONE, MALLING, LARKFIELD AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

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PUPILS UP TO SCRATCH

A CLASS of dog groomers have proved hard work and commitment pays off by scoring a 100 per cent pass rate on a top course.

The students, who are enrolled on to the City and Guilds advanced certificate in dog grooming at Hadlow College, all received a credit in their external exams last week. The advanced certificate covers all aspects of bathing, grooming and styling of dogs, as well as general care and common ailments.

Tutor Julie Harris said: "I'm extremely proud of the success rate we have here at Hadlow, which reflects the commitment of our staff and students."

EXCLUSIVE

BY ANNA WHITE

COUNCIL bosses have ignored the heartfelt plea of more than 3,000 people to build a memorial for artist Tony Hart in his home town.

Yourmaidstone exclusively reported last week that more than 150 people had joined a group titled Maidstone Would like a Statue or Memorial of Maidstonian Tony Hart on the networking site Facebook, just days after the artist's death.

Our story was then picked up by national and other local newspapers and TV stations.

The popular online group, which suggests a statue or memorial for Hart could be included and funded as part of Maidstone council's plan to improve the high street, yesterday had 3,040 members and was increasing every hour.

The group is urging people to put forward their ideas to council chiefs and spread the word to their friends. Comments posted on the site show a statue of Hart's clay creation Morph is the most popular idea.

But despite the overwhelming response to the group the council says it has no intention of building a memorial for the much-loved artist, who was treasured by a generation of children that grew up watching TV shows Vision On and Take Hart.

A council spokeswoman said: "We don't have any plans to commission a statue of Tony Hart or Morph."

Fans have also been using the site to leave

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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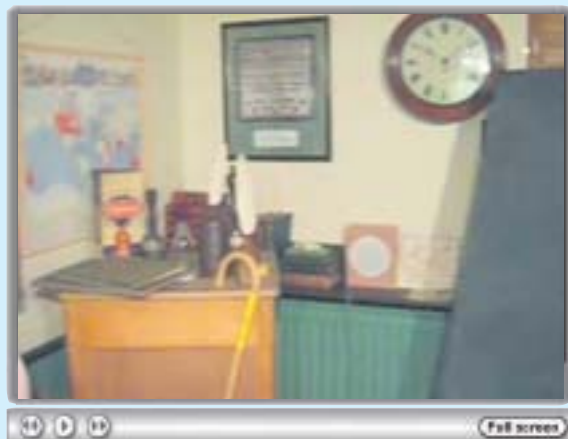
WHAT'S ON & WATCH

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TOP TV CLIPS



1 Facebook bites back at town's radical road scheme.
See the community channel and search 'Facebook'



2 Visit a Victorian classroom – complete with cane.
See the community channel and search 'Victorian'.



3 Is it time to dredge Ramsgate harbour? You be the judge.
See the community channel and search 'Ramsgate'

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Ex hospital trust chief takes NHS to court for cash

■ BY ANNA WHITE

SUPERBUG scandal boss Rose Gibb was embroiled in a High Court battle this week against her former employer trying to get her hands on a £250,000 payout.

She was at the helm of Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust during two outbreaks of Clostridium difficile which led to the death of at least 90 patients.

Ms Gibb resigned days before a damning Healthcare Commission report was published revealing poor hygiene, infection control methods and ineffective leadership led to 1,176 patients developing the bug between 2004 and 2006 at Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells and Pembury hospitals.

In October 2007 she was placed on immediate 'garden leave'.

Court papers show when Ms Gibb learnt she was being forced out from her job she originally aimed for a severance package of £300,000, which was then reduced to £250,000.

Pay out

At the time of the scandal, Health Secretary Alan Johnson stopped the trust giving Ms Gibb a six-figure payout, instead she received £75,000 – half of her salary as chief executive.

She is now claiming the trust breached their contract by not paying the full £250,000, and that if she had known she would not receive the full payment she would not have left.

The trust argues to pay her the full compensation would be "irrational and generous in the circumstances".

The High Court case began on Monday and Ms Gibb gave evidence yesterday.

Her barrister Oliver Segal told the London court that the trust originally supported Ms Gibb as the official



COURT BATTLE: Rose Gibb is trying to claim a £250,000 severance pay out

investigation was launched into the superbug scandal but was then pressurised to consider either terminating her employment or moving her to another post.

He told the court after the trust carried out its own independent report into the commission's findings, it decided it would be "best to encourage or, if necessary, to force Ms Gibb to step down" before the damning report was released.

The trust's counsel Jane McNeill said: "The case was significant for the public generally, as well as for the trust."

Ms Gibb has said she intends to "fight and fight hard" for her payout after her former employer's decision to force her out of the trust.

The case was expected to conclude later today.

yourmaidstone NEWS IN BRIEF

Judge says glamour girl Kelly didn't fit in

SACKED Britain's Got Talent judge Kelly Brook was removed from the show because she failed to fit in, according to fellow panellist Piers Morgan.

The glamour girl, 29, who lives in Grafty Green, near Maidstone, was hired as a fourth judge for the hit ITV1 series. But she was axed after just six days amid massive publicity.

Morgan told a national newspaper it was a mistake to hire her and claims boss Simon Cowell was right to act quickly: "You don't want to damage the brand trying to flog something that isn't working."

Concerns raised over business rates levy

TORY hopeful Helen Grant says Labour's plan to increase Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells' business rates is a 'kick in the teeth'.

The Government is introducing a new law, the Business Rates Supplements Bill, which is likely to force town halls to increase business rates on local firms by levying a 'supplementary' rate on top of current bills.

In 2008/9, 4,356 businesses in Maidstone were paying an average of £11,511, the impending five per cent rise will increase this to an average of £12,086 from April.

Dance the night away with triple the fun

THREE of Maidstone's top nightclubs are joining forces to help clubbers beat the credit crunch and return to the dance-floor.

From Saturday, February 21, customers will get more for their money when they visit JJs, and the newly-refurbished Liquid and Envy, which are all in the Lockmeadow complex.

The clubs are introducing the Access All Areas wristband which will allow clubbers to freely flow between all three for one entry fee.

Management have also introduced free entry before 10pm. The changes will create 20 new jobs.

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Crimewatch step up in bid to find Danny's killer

■ BY ANNA WHITE

DETECTIVES hunting the killers of Danny King made an appeal on BBC's Crimewatch TV show last night in a bid for fresh leads.

Detective Chief Inspector John Bumpus spoke live on the show about the ongoing investigation into the death of the 51-year-old father, who was shot four times at his Maidstone home on the evening of Friday, October 17, last year.

The show, which was aired at 9pm, featured CCTV footage officers have released to the public for the first time, featuring who they believe are Mr King's killers.

The footage showed two people running out of Medina Road, where Mr King lived, and getting into a car parked on New Road in Ditton.



SHOT IN BED: Danny King was killed in his home and police are looking for the Peugeot 207 (circled) shown in CCTV footage

Peugeot's

At the time of Mr King's murder his wife, son and grandchildren were asleep in nearby rooms.

The car shown in the CCTV, which arrived 25 minutes before Mr King was murdered, has been identified as a Peugeot 207cc coupe.

Around the time of Mr King's murder, two Peugeots were stolen. One, in Lambeth, registration number LC08 CWO, was found burnt out in Croydon exactly 24 hours after Mr King's murder.

The second was stolen from the Dartford area in the weeks before Mr King was killed, registration LV08 ETF.

This vehicle has never been found and officers would like to hear from anyone who may

have information as to its whereabouts. It is possible the car may have been used with cloned number plates.

DCI Bumpus told Yourmaidstone before going on Crimewatch: "The footage shows two figures running towards the car, one of them goes in the direction of the passenger seat and the other towards the driver's side. It is not clear what they are wearing."

"In my view I believe these two people are involved in the shooting of Danny."

He added: "It is imperative if someone is sitting at home watching who may have information that they think we may already know to ring us."

"I am hoping when people see the CCTV footage it will jog someone's memory. There is someone out there who knows something and we need their help to have justice."

It has also been revealed this is not the first time Mr King and his family have been the victim of an attack.

In November 2006 a gunshot was fired into the lounge windows at Mr King's home. The incident has now been reopened for officers to investigate if the two shootings are related.

• Anyone with information should call police on 01622 654863 or email dannykingappeal@kent.pnn.police.uk.

Have your say on plans for Gateway

HUNDREDS of residents are expected to turn up at a KCC meeting to have their say on Kent International Gateway.

If KIG goes ahead a 275-acre road-rail freight interchange will be built in the Kent countryside near to the M20 junction eight at Bearsted and Hollingbourne.

Additional information has been added to the proposal, which includes buildings for warehousing, distribution, offices, research and development, and light industrial units, and has been opened for the public to comment on.

Kent County Council are urging people to come to the meeting on Monday at 7pm at Invicta Grammar School to share their views and thoughts on the proposed freight depot before it is too late.

This will be the last chance to speak out before Maidstone council's planning deadline on Friday, February 6.

For more details contact KCC community liaison manager Loic Flory on 01622 694217 or email loic.flory@kent.gov.uk.

Superstore sold booze and fireworks to U18s

A SAINSBURY'S branch has been hit with a list of restrictions after staff sold alcohol and fireworks to under 18-year-olds.

It was revealed at a licensing hearing on Monday that Sainsbury's in Headcorn failed two trading standards test purchase operations.

The supermarket was found to have sold the goods to the under 18s and falsified an account in a book used to record those who have been refused alcohol.

The store has now been handed 13 restrictions when selling alcohol.

From now on a license holder must be present during the sale of alcohol, staff training will receive extra training, there will be improved CCTV and anyone who looks under the age of 25 must be asked for identification.

'Lifesize Morph a fitting tribute'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

loving messages for their childhood hero and to show their support to the statue idea.

One read: "We should be proud of our connection with this talented role model who has inspired so many to have a go and enjoy art. From all accounts he was a true gentleman."

Lin Banks, from Maidstone, wrote: "A lifesize replica of Morph would be a wonderfully fitting tribute and if the riverfront in Maidstone is to be revamped it would be an ideal place to put such a fun piece of art. Let's hope the council takes notice of this campaign."

Barbara Neil-Bottle posted: "Maidstone doesn't often affect the rest of the country in a positive way, it's usually things like all the negative press, courtesy of Maidstone Hospital, that are brought to people's attention."

"Let's redress the balance and celebrate Tony Hart with a fitting tribute. I like the idea of a statue of Morph or at least featuring Morph in some way."

Mr Hart, who died peacefully at his Surrey home aged 83 on January 18, was born in Hastings Road, Maidstone, on October 15, 1925, and attended St Margaret's Pre-Prep School.

He served as an officer with the 1st Gurkha Rifles in World War Two before studying art at Maidstone College of Art - now the University for Creative Arts - graduating in 1950 and starting his 50-year TV career.

Woman who killed husband in fight to keep nursing status

A WOMAN who killed her cheating husband with an axe is fighting a decision to strike her off the nurses' register.

Wadanahalugeder Chandrasekera, 61, from Bearsted, killed her husband Sarath by striking him 11 times with the weapon in October 2005, after she discovered he was the father of her niece's child.

She took the axe from her kitchen and lay in wait for him by his car when he came to see their children after moving out of the family home.

Mrs Chandrasekera, who is originally from Sri Lanka, admitted manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility in January 2006, and was given a three-year community order.

She was released after serving ten months in prison on remand, after it was revealed she had suffered years of emotional abuse from her husband during a court hearing.

In December 2007, Mrs

Chandrasekera was told by the Nursing and Midwifery Council she could not practice in the UK for at least five years.

She challenged the nursing council conduct committee's decision to strike her off the register at London's High Court on Friday, claiming it made it "fundamentally incompatible" for her to continue nursing.

Mrs Chandrasekera's representative John de Bono said her case was exceptional and the disciplinary body should have handed down a lesser penalty and taken into account her depressed mental state and suffering at the time of the killing.

Lawyers for the nursing council maintained that striking off was necessary "to maintain public confidence in the nursing profession".

Deputy High Court judge Christopher Symons QC said he would give his decision at a later date.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Have your say on state of county town's loos

MAIDSTONE council wants to improve the county town's public toilets and needs your feedback.

The environment and leisure overview and scrutiny committee is taking action after a survey rated the town's lavatories as poor.

Forty-one per cent of respondents cited concerns about safety, cleanliness and visibility. Write to Esther Bell at Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ, or email osc@maidstone.gov.uk for a list of questions to answer.

Layers of hidden history await Big Dig children

YOUNGSTERS will be digging deep to uncover hidden history at Leeds Castle during the half term holiday.

The castle will open its grounds to budding archaeologists to join in The Big Dig on February 14 and 15, helped by archaeologist Mike Farley.

Tickets are £15 for adults, £12.50 pensioners and visitors with disabilities (carer goes free) and £9.50 for children (under-fours free). For more information, visit www.leeds-castle.com or call 01622 765400.

Burlesque dancers hope to ensure love blossoms

TWO Maidstone businesswomen have teamed up to ensure love blossoms on Valentine's Day.

Clare Steward, of award-winning florists Girl Flower, and Star Monroe of Cardio Striptease, have an eye-catching plan to prompt men to order flowers early for the romantic day.

Ms Monroe and fellow dancer Emma James will perform burlesque shows between 1pm and 2pm on three days, starting from February 4, in Girl Flower's shop window in Union Street.

Setting the record straight

LAST week Yourmaidstone reported that computer company Education Sense had donated three laptops to a school in Loose that had lost equipment in a burglary.

We would like to point out that school has now changed its name to the New Line Learning Academy and is no longer the Oldborough Manor Community College.

Innovative midwives cut caesarian rates

■ BY JENNA PUDELEK

MIDWIVES in Kent have developed a tool that has seen caesarean section rates drop by up to five per cent.

Concerns have been raised that caesarean rates, which have doubled in ten years, are too high and the NHS has been working to ensure more women have natural births.

Sarah Gregson, a consultant midwife for Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, entered her team into the Royal College of Midwives (RCM) annual awards in the innovation category after they developed the midwifery practice audit.

She said the tool was placed in the top three during the awards ceremony, held at the Royal Garden Hotel in London, out of entries from across the UK.

The audit tool, which was devised in 2003 by senior midwives led by Hilary Thomas at Pembury Hospital, was used again during 2007-08. It is now also being used at Maidstone Hospital.

Mrs Gregson said: "C-section rates have doubled across the UK, but we have not been saving any more mothers or babies because of it. "It is a big public health issue. Maternity services are looking at how we can increase normal births because there are a lot of health benefits for mother and child."

The tool works by getting the midwife who is

caring for a woman in labour to fill in a form every hour noting information such as changes of position and keeping the woman upright, encouraging different support strategies, such as using water.

The results of the original audit were lost and when Mrs Gregson joined the trust in 2006 in a new role to promote normal births, it was agreed the audit would be run again at the Pembury maternity unit, which deals with 2,500 births a year.

Research shows that women who give birth normally are more likely to breast feed, which is considered to be best nutritionally for the newborn and to build up natural defences.

During the second trial of the audit, caesarean rates dropped by two per cent overall from 26 per cent of births in 2007 to 23.4 per cent in 2008.

Mrs Gregson said that among first-time mums going into labour naturally, the team saw the best results, with a five per cent fall in C-sections.

She said that while C-sections were important for women experiencing serious complications in labour or with medical conditions, many were being carried out unnecessarily.

Nationally, 24 per cent of births are C-sections. The World Health Organisation's target is for no more than 10 to 15 per cent.



MOTHERS OF INVENTION: The Royal College of Midwives recognised the value of the audit tool

Hospice boosted by auction of Troika rarity



A VASE donated to a charity shop proved to be worth more than its previous owner thought.

When staff at The Heart of Kent Hospice shop in Borough Green were going through a collection of bric-a-brac they did not expect to find a valuable Troika vase.

The rarity was noticed by an eagle-eyed volunteer who auctioned the vase on internet site eBay, making £865 for the piece.

Manager Sheila Burton suspected the vase might be valuable, but hadn't anticipated its final sale price.

She said: "Over the years I have seen much smaller Troika pieces and they have always sold, so when the vase came into the warehouse, I realised by its size alone

that it must be worth a try."

The successful bidder was from north London and with their contribution the hospice shop raised £1,000 on the auction site that week.

If you are clearing out your loft or garage, hospice shops are always grateful to receive unwanted items.

They have branches in Borough Green High Street, Coxheath, Headcorn, Larkfield, Lenham Square, Senacre Square, Snodland, Staplehurst High Street, Maidstone and West Malling High Street.

• Troika was set up in Cornwall by artists Lesley Illsley, Jan Thompson and Benny Sirota in 1963. The pottery closed in 1980.

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Extra time for Tommy after minute's silence own goal

THE former club of a renowned player of amateur football's golden era has apologised for holding a minute's silence in his honour – because he isn't dead.

Tommy Farrer, 86, was still very much alive and kicking at his home in Maidstone, but that didn't stop County Durham side Bishop Auckland mistakenly paying their respects.

About 2,000 fans bowed their heads in silence before a non-league match.

A tribute appeared in the North East town's local paper and the match programme stated: "We have just learned of the death of Two Blues legend Tommy Farrer. Our thoughts go to his family and friends."

But 287 miles away at his county town

■ BY JON COATES

home, Mr Farrer had just celebrated his 65th wedding anniversary with wife Gladys.

Mr Farrer, who also won eight amateur international caps for England, told the Northern Echo newspaper: "We are not upset, but we did think it was a bit of a joke at first."

"Whoever it was who told people I had died obviously contacted the club and they decided to go the whole hog by arranging the silence. I'm moved that they went to such trouble."

Gladys, 87, said: "We are very sorry people have had all this hassle."

The club realised their mistake when chairman Terry Jackson rang Mrs Farrer to offer his condolences, only to be told her husband had just popped out to get a paper.

A baffled Mrs Farrer told the chairman that if he cared to hang on for a minute he could tell Mr Farrer himself, as he would soon be back from the shops.

Mr Farrer played for Bishop Auckland, who are now in the Northern League Division One, between 1945 and 1953, when the side were regarded as the best amateur team of their generation.

Mr Jackson said: "It is the first and, hopefully, the last time something like this happens. It was done with the best intentions."

"When anyone involved with the club passes away we make sure there is some kind of remembrance. The news came via Bishop Auckland Social Club. We were victims of our own efficiency. But we are glad Tommy is still with us and hope he remains in good health for many years."

Phone warning to drivers

DRIVERS are being urged to switch off their mobile phones by a safety campaign.

Car parks in Maidstone are displaying posters warning motorists they will now automatically get three points on their licence and a £60 fine if caught using a hand-held mobile phone at the wheel.

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CRUNCH TIME: Log on and learn to save money by recycling. Search 'crunch'



MICKY MOUSE MOM

A Maidstone mother has become the first British member on a panel of Walt Disney World experts. Former lab assistant Joanne Young has visited the Florida theme park many times, making her the perfect candidate to sit on the 2009 Walt Disney World Mom's panel.

Mrs Young has been chosen from thousands of applicants to answer questions from British holidaymakers planning on visiting the park in the interactive online community.

She will be joined on the panel by 16 other mums, and is the first Briton to make the cut. Mrs Young, who lives in the county town with her husband David, said: "I had my first taste of Disney magic at the age of nine and have been hooked ever since." Families thinking of visiting Walt Disney World and wanting tips from the panel can visit www.disneyworldmoms.com.

Salute to 40 years' service

A CHARITY has given special recognition to a Watlingbury woman's dedication to helping our armed forces.

The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA Kent), works with all other charities to help serving and ex-servicemen, women and their families in need.

At the latest SSAFA Kent appeals committee meeting, in Bishopsbourne, near Canterbury, Elizabeth English was presented with a badge to honour her "exceptional" 40 years' service to charity.

Mrs English said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed serving on the committee and have made many friends."

Speaking of her long service, she added:

"There is nothing much to this except, perhaps, some staying power."

The committee thanked her for raising thousands of pounds every year for the Kent armed forces community.

Mrs English moved to Kent in 1959 to nurse sailors on the Training Ship Arethusa who were suffering from severe flu.

She met and married Mark English, a fruit farmer and a keen sailor, at Medway Yacht Club in 1960.

They have two daughters, five grandchildren and a son who is serving in the Army.

Mrs English has many relatives in all three services and says this is the reason for her enthusiasm to the cause.

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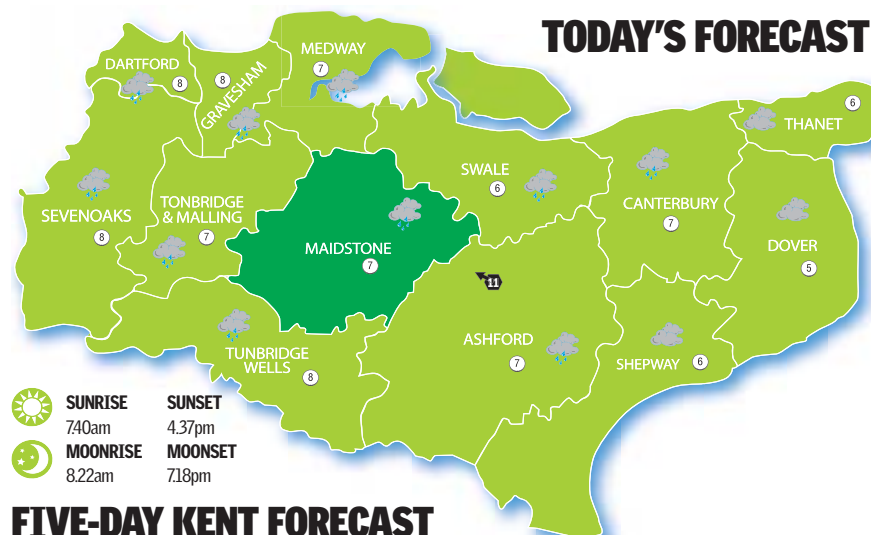


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WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	3:51pm	5.7m
	Sunday	4:29pm	5.6m
Dover	Saturday	1:50pm	6.2m
	Sunday	2:26pm	6.1m
Dungeness	Saturday	1:55pm	7.4m
	Sunday	2:36pm	7.3m
Ramsgate	Saturday	2:20pm	4.8m
	Sunday	2:56pm	4.7m
Sheerness	Saturday	3:41pm	5.5m
	Sunday	4:18pm	5.3m
Whitstable	Saturday	3:34pm	5.0m
	Sunday	4:10pm	5.0m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	4°C	Madrid	8°C
Athens	15°C	New York	-5°C
Barcelona	11°C	Paris	4°C
Beijing	2°C	Rome	11°C
Bombay	29°C	Sydney	25°C
Cape Town	25°C	Tenerife	20°C
Cardiff	7°C	Tokyo	9°C
Gibraltar	14°C	Vancouver	3°C
Hong Kong	13°C	Warsaw	3°C
Las Palmas	18°C	Wellington	24°C

Mall wins award for eco-friendly efforts

A SHOPPING mall in the the county town has been recognised for its green trading and could now represent Britain in an eco-friendly business competition.

Judges picked Fremlin Walk from more than 500 other UK businesses to receive a Green Apple award for its outstanding 'programme of environmental initiatives'.

It was praised for its comprehensive recycling programme which absorbs nearly 100 per cent of its retail waste – including plastic, glass, cardboard and left-over café food – the use of only bio-degradable cleaning products and the monitoring of wash basins to reduce water wastage.

The centre also won praise for its community focus, supporting local green projects such as Maidstone council's Green Week, and the introduction of its own reusable Fremlin Walk eco shopping bag.

Lloyd Wright, centre manager said: "To be recognised at this level is a massive achievement for Fremlin Walk and its staff."

"We pride ourselves on the steps we have taken to make Fremlin Walk a cleaner, greener centre and I hope this award motivates other Kent businesses to make positive changes."

Mr Wright and the centre's operations manager Andrew Thomas-Knowles will collect the award at a ceremony on board the Royal Yacht Britannia in Edinburgh on February 13.



PROUD: Fremlin Walk manager Lloyd Wright

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	8°C	7°C	7°C	8°C	7°C	Gravesend	8°C	7°C	7°C	8°C	7°C
Canterbury	7°C	6°C	5°C	7°C	5°C	Maidstone	8°C	7°C	7°C	8°C	7°C
Chatham	7°C	7°C	6°C	8°C	6°C	Ramsgate	7°C	6°C	5°C	7°C	5°C
Dartford	8°C	7°C	7°C	8°C	7°C	Rochester	7°C	7°C	6°C	8°C	6°C
Dover	7°C	5°C	5°C	6°C	5°C	Sevenoaks	6°C	6°C	5°C	6°C	5°C
Faversham	7°C	7°C	6°C	8°C	6°C	Sittingbourne	7°C	7°C	6°C	8°C	6°C
Folkestone	7°C	5°C	5°C	6°C	5°C	Tonbridge	7°C	7°C	7°C	8°C	7°C
Gillingham	7°C	7°C	6°C	8°C	6°C	Tun Wells	7°C	7°C	7°C	8°C	7°C

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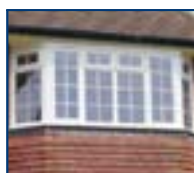
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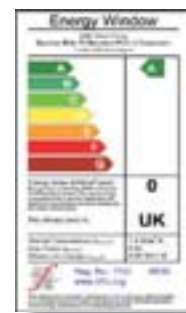
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QUESTION & ANSWER

TIM LUCKHURST



Q Tell us about yourself.

A I'm 45, happily married with four children and support Partick Thistle and Chelsea football clubs. I entered the world of journalism, which had always been my ambition, in 1988.

Q Can you tell us about your career in journalism?

A I'm a former editor of The Scotsman. I began my career on BBC Radio 4's Today Programme for which I produced, edited and reported from the UK and abroad. I covered the Romanian Revolution and the First Gulf War for BBC Radio and reported on the liberation of Kosovo and the fall of Slobodan Milosevic for the Scotsman. I was the BBC's Washington producer during the first year of the Clinton presidency and returned to the UK to become a senior member of the team that designed and launched BBC Radio Five Live. I won two Sony Radio Awards for news broadcasting and I write about topics including politics, media and motorcycling for publications including the Guardian, Independent, Times, Toronto Globe and Mail, Los Angeles Times and The New Republic.

Q How different is journalism now to 'traditional' journalism?

A I think the best journalism available today is better than anything before, however it is submerged in a sea of dross. There are thousands of blogs and magazines available now but

not enough investigative and analytical journalism. We need more, better trained journalists.

Q How strong is the journalism course offered by the University of Kent?

A The National Council for the Training of Journalists says our course 'sets the benchmark for others to follow' and we feel it's one of the best in Britain if not the world. We're not being arrogant, none of the lecturers would have given up working in real newsrooms for a second-rate course. We believe we are producing high standards of training and the number and quality of applications we receive from across the globe is testament to that. Next year's intake includes candidates from as far as Hong Kong and as close as Medway and that's what we want. A great newsroom is made up of different people from different backgrounds coming together and learning from each other.

Q What skills are needed to become a good journalist?

A A first-rate mind to investigate and analyse, a healthy disregard for authority and a complete commitment to democracy and the freedom of information. Journalists also have to be entertaining and have a sense of humour.

Q What are the main misconceptions of journalists?

A The worst public misconception is that journalists are trouble makers who report trivia.

Journalism at its best is a vital service to democracy which enables readers to make independent choices and hold power to account.

Q How do you foresee the world of journalism changing in the next ten years?

A The digital world offers huge possibilities. We teach students online, video and text journalism. The main challenge to the industry is how to pay for good journalism across these digital formats. Websites cannot afford to pay for good foreign correspondents or investigative journalists, whereas traditional newspapers can. When the digital world is able to find an economic model for this I think the industry will change.

Q What do you think makes a good story?

A A good story is often something which people do not expect, did not know was going to happen or something really important. 'Man bites dog' is much better than 'dog bites man'. At the same time a story which is really important and something people do not expect, for example someone in a position of authority betraying the public trust. Journalists need to find out what other people do not want other people to know.

Q Anything you'd like to add?

A Anyone interested in the BA in journalism can visit www.centreforjournalism.co.uk or come along to the Chatham Maritime campus.

Q&A

The internationally experienced journalist and professor at the University of Kent spoke to **Simon Robinson** about the course it offers and the state of the media industry in the online age.

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EDITOR'S CHOICE

You can view all these videos and others from around the county with the click of a mouse at...

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The sky's the limit for your special one

BY JON COATES

WE HAVE found the ultimate present for your Valentine – a helicopter lesson.

Kent is lucky enough to have one of the best helicopter pilot training schools in the UK.

AV8 Helicopters, at Rochester Airport, offers introductory flying lessons so you can experience the thrill of taking control of a helicopter.

So if you're looking to sweep your Valentine off their feet, this could be the answer. I went along to Rochester Airport this week for a 30-minute introductory flight to find out more.

Experiencing a mix of excitement and trepidation, I was introduced to my instructor Richard Cooke, 61, and immediately relieved to find myself in safe hands.

He introduced me to the Robinson R22 helicopter we would be going up in and I was stunned by how small it was.

This is the most popular aircraft for training pilots as it is very light and therefore sensitive to the touch.

Richard first explained the three flying controls – the cyclic stick used to speed up, slow down and go left or right, the collective lever used to make the craft rise or fall and two foot pedals used to control the tail rotor.

For the trial flight you only take control of the cyclic stick in flight, but it's good to understand the basics before taking off.

Richard stressed how sensitive the stick is and explained where we would be flying and that once we were levelled out and settled in to a cruise the controls would be passed to me.

The Robinson R22 has a perspex canopy (the



MIND BLOWING: Jon Coates takes to the sky in a truly unforgettable experience flying a helicopter

front windscreen) stretching down to near your feet, which gives an incredible view and makes you feel like you're floating on air.

It was an amazing feeling just lifting off with the whole of Medway stretching in front of me as we headed towards Leeds Castle. Then after just a few minutes I gripped the control stick and was flying.

Despite the safety warnings I immediately sent us veering off to the right. But Richard soon corrected me and I managed to keep a straight course, which is the aim of the introductory lesson. As I relaxed and my confidence grew I was able to look around and take in the stunning views, having been blessed with clear blue skies on a rare sunny winter day.

The feeling of keeping it straight and level, and speeding up to make small alterations in direction to the left or right was brilliant.

AV8 run 20-minute introductory flights for £130 plus VAT, 30-minute flights for £147.50 plus VAT and hour flights for £255 plus VAT, which are perfect gifts or birthday presents.

After the trial flight if you're as hooked as me then you need a minimum of 45 hours of lessons to get your private pilot's licence, at a cost of £255 plus VAT per hour.

They also offer flights in executive helicopters over London and Hellfire Corner in Kent for £150 per person plus VAT.

• For details call AV8 on 01634 672288, email info@av8helicopters.co.uk or see www.av8helicopters.co.uk



Finishing school to help motivate our youngsters

TROUBLESOME teenagers are being invited to clean up their act by attending a modern-day version of a finishing school.

Shy youngsters and those with low self-esteem have also taken part in the Brand You Experience, which aims to help school leavers prepare for working life through a series of motivational workshops.

The scheme, which started in Dover last year and is now being extended to Maidstone, is a joint initiative between Kent County Council and mentoring and coaching organisation Beyond Excellence.

Project leader Dean Martin said: "Some of the schools used the course as a means of rewarding pupils who weren't troublemakers but who rarely shined in the classroom. But then we had some who were bouncing off the walls and others who had very low opinions of themselves and perhaps weren't receiving the right support at home."

The next Brand You Experience course runs for five days from Monday, February 16, at Bradbourne House, East Malling, Maidstone. Each session runs from 9.30am until 3.30pm daily, and Mr Martin is encouraging potential employers to visit and offer their support to the youngsters.

He said: "We have found from talking to young people and employers that they are often poles apart in what they expect from each other."

For more details on the scheme call Mr Martin on 01843 844939.

Picture: SARAH STANTON/AV8



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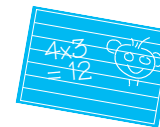
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BREAK TIME



AWARDED: Amy Massey and James Alcock

Healthy school gets Olympic approval

A MAIDSTONE school has been presented with a top award from an Olympic athlete for its overall healthy attitude.

The Cornwallis Academy was awarded the Healthy Schools Status for its commitment to healthy eating and standards being met in physical activity, emotional well-being and personal, social and health education.

Four-time British Olympian Donna Fraser presented the academy, which is part of the New Line Learning Federation, with the Healthy Schools Status at a special ceremony in Kings Hill.

Vice principal Charlie McGregor, head of PE Dane Smith and two student representatives, Amy Massey and James Alcock, attended the ceremony to collect the award and certificates.

Ms Fraser was the guest speaker and gave the audience a great insight into what it is like to be an athlete and the struggles and hard work needed to reach your ultimate goal.

Mr Smith said: "The award is the result of a lot of hard work from numerous staff members, students and parents and I would like to give a big thank you to everyone who has helped on this school project. I hope we can continue to develop this in all aspects of the Healthy Schools Programme."



Picture: MICK GILL

OLD-SCHOOL FUN: Sutton Valence Preparatory School has reintroduced classic games, like marbles, in a bid to reinforce traditional standards, respect and behaviour among pupils

School rolls back the clock to tackle playtime bullying

■ BY ANNA WHITE

YOUNGSTERS have become better behaved after swapping their high-tech games for more traditional playtime activities.

Sutton Valence Preparatory School has reintroduced the classic games in a bid to reinforce traditional standards, respect and behaviour.

Deputy head Alexia Bracewell says the scheme has proven active playtime choices are reducing bullying and bad behaviour.

To bring this positive method into the school the playground was divided into a number of

zones to suit the youngster's mood, ranging from quiet and crazy, to balls and WOW.

But the Craze of the Week section has proved most popular; with the children challenging each other at marbles, top trumps or dominos last week, and this week playing with Action Men or Barbie dolls.

The new playground initiatives follow the school's introduction of the Golden Rules last term, which encourages the pupils to be kind, helpful and honest, listen carefully, work hard,

and respect their peers and teachers.

Sutton Valence Preparatory School caters for 380 boys and girls aged three to 11.

Some of the older pupils are currently following a KCC-accredited course, enabling them to be play leaders, supervising younger children and teaching them to play in harmony.

Mrs Bracewell said: "We have noticed a positive change in how the children interact and team games are proving popular with all ages.

"Our strategies are geared towards giving children a creative and positive experience in the classroom and in the playground."

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Anglers unite to tackle 'outrageous' EU scheme

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

EU PLANS to limit the amount of fish amateur anglers can catch will harm the shops and businesses that rely on the popular hobby, say opponents.

Boat charter companies, tackle shops and other businesses could suffer unless the European Union withdraws what many insiders believe is an unfair ruling for recreational fishermen in the UK.

The plans are aimed at clamping down on Continental fishermen who use large nets to gather fish to feed their families.

If the EU does not back down, skippers who take tourists on sea-angling trips off Kent's coast and those who fish from piers will have to abide by the same quota rules as commercial fishermen throughout Europe.

Kent Charter Fishing owner Dave Hancock said: "This could slaughter our business, but



CAUGHT OUT: UK anglers are upset at planned quotas

we may have no choice but to deal with it.

"It would make life very difficult and mean we would have to fish for different species and record every catch, which would be a big hassle. If you put our catches beside the amount caught by commercial fishermen, the numbers are insignificant. It doesn't seem fair. We want things to stay the way they are."

Kent MEP Daniel Hannan, who is a member of the European Parliament's committee on fisheries, said: "It's outrageous that they

are extending this policy to recreational anglers. When large-scale commercial fishing in places such as Margate dried up, people started taking tourists out on angling trips on boats instead.

"For them to have to register their catch is preposterous. But I think there's a reasonable chance of stopping this going through. I'm fairly confident we'll be able to fix it."

About 1.4 million people enjoy sea fishing off Britain, creating about 20,000 jobs in the process. The newly-formed Angling Trust has promised to fight the new proposals all the way and is encouraging recreational fishermen to contact their MEPs.

Member Leon Roskilly said: "We would like the two sectors [commercial and recreational] to be regulated differently and more appropriately, because if this goes through it will have a hell of an impact."

"We're having meetings with Defra and the European Anglers' Alliance. There's been a furore over this – whoever came up with this regulation can't have imagined they would receive such a reaction."

Police frustration at violent crime statistical error

A LEADING Kent police officer has voiced "frustration" over the force's misreporting of serious violent crimes in the county.

Kent Police were among 18 forces that had incorrectly counted the numbers of the most serious offences such as murder and grievous bodily harm (GBH) due to a change in Home Office guidance.

The county constabulary was forced to suspend serious violent offences statistics from its crime figures for the third quarter of 2008.

Acting Assistant Chief Constable Peter West said: "It is frustrating, in so much as when there are new crime recording and differences introduced and the guidance that goes with it, it takes a period of settling down."

"We have suspended our figures because of applying the wrong interpretation to the guidelines, but we will know the figures before the end of the financial year," Mr West added.

"Serious violent crime was 6.3 per cent of our total – 1,277 out of 20,204 – and when we have gone through every one with the most recent guidance, every indication is that the figure will fall."

He said the changes did not alter the fact that violent crime in the county was falling. Kent showed a nine per cent reduction in total violent crime.



Get the issue of bringing wildlife into your garden boxed off

PAT CRAWFORD provides wildlife gardening advice from Hadlow College in her exclusive column for Yourmaidstone.

CLIMATE change and the unstable weather associated with it confuses nature just as it does us.

The latest predictions from the Hadley Centre, which advises on climate change, indicate that we shall have increased rainfall during the winter and a decrease in summer months.

Expectations are that we shall experience periods of 'torrential' rain

which will, of course, increase risk of flash flooding.

Now is a good time to erect nesting boxes for birds. It's worth undertaking careful research about the types of boxes available – the RSPB website provides some particularly valuable advice.

Various species-specific designs are available and it's obviously best to provide boxes for birds that visit the garden regularly.

Avoid locating boxes in exposed sit-

uations – and especially those that could be reached by marauding cats!

Feeding the birds is particularly important at this time of the year because natural resources are often severely reduced. It is a good idea to provide feedstuffs that will appeal to the species for which the nesting boxes are being erected.

Food and shelter in a single garden situation should bear results – but avoid designs that incorporate nesting box and feeding platform in a sin-

gle unit – they tend to be unpopular with most feathered species.

Remember to stop feeding peanuts before eggs hatch because they are likely to choke young birds – and go on providing clean water.

Encouraging wildlife into the garden is the best pest control of all. No chemicals or other 'nasties' – and in a short time nature will have created a balance that really works.

• Hadlow College offers organic and wildlife gardening courses. Call 0500 551434 for information.

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WTN Tickets to the London Stitch and Creative Crafts show



THE London Stitch & Creative Crafts Show comes back to London ExCeL on Thursday, February 26 to Saturday, February 28. With easy access from all major and local routes and excellent general facilities, it's no wonder this show is now a firm favourite with creative craft lovers in and around the capital.

There will be a host of crafting celebrities to entertain, educate and pass on their skills and knowledge over the three days. Stephanie Weightman, from Ideal World and Create & Craft TV and Debbi Moore, expert crafting presenter, will both be running a programme of workshops. Joan Gordon, sewing and craft designer with over 25 years experience, will be hosting a Sewing Clinic for those wishing to pick up all the tricks of the trade and to answer all your sewing queries. Also from Create & Craft TV, Wendie Rhodes will be hosting her highly popular series of free demon-

stration lectures covering a huge range of topics.

The world of Guilds and Associations will be represented by The Embroiderers' Guild, The Guild of Silk Painters (Essex branch), Middlesex Federation of Women's Institutes and the Tower Hamlets Idea Store of Learning who will all be giving demonstrations and displays of their members' activities.

Marlene Carr, the Show Manager for this event says: "The London Stitch & Creative Crafts Show is a great day out for both the experienced and the beginner crafter. The wide range of exhibitors offer visitors every conceivable type of crafting product, demonstrations and workshops and with the excellent London ExCeL, we really will have something for everyone at this superb show."

KOS Media Publishing has 10 pairs of tickets to this great event to giveaway.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your e-mail address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to The London Stitch Comp, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR. Closing date is February 19, 2009.

Question: When is the London Stitch and Craft show?

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If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

CRAFTY EXHIBITION: TV's Create & Craft Wendy Rhodes (left) will be at the event (above) being held at London ExCeL.



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yourmaidstoneblogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in and around Maidstone...

Why we should wrap TV star Brian Cant up in cotton wool

FIRST Oliver Postgate and now Tony Hart. For those 30-some-things weaned on a diet of BBC children's TV of the Seventies and early Eighties, these are dark times indeed.

There is perhaps nothing more likely to bring home to you that youth has truly passed you by and you're entering an older generation, than when entertainers from your childhood start shuffling off this mortal coil.

It was bad enough when, quite recently, I learned the chap who played Timothy Claypole in Rentaghost had died years earlier. Timothy Claypole? Dead? What is the world coming to?

But while Oliver Postgate's creations such as Bagpuss and Ivor the Engine will live on, Tony Hart's death was particularly sad.

Postgate was always a man whose fame grew by his name appearing in the credits of so

many programmes. His face was anonymous.

But for many years, Hart was the embodiment of children's telly. He would occupy a slot prior to Grange Hill or Blue Peter and dazzle us with his gentle artistic talents.

A huge city skyline at night was always a speciality – created on a huge black canvas on the floor; it only becoming apparent what he was creating as a camera staring down from the ceiling brought it to life.

But he was more than that. He was a kindly old uncle; a figure with authority and a sense of fun but with none of the overt 'silliness' which pervades the schedules for youngsters today.

I can remember quite clearly joining an art club at infant school as they promised to send work off to the BBC to try and appear in Hart's The Gallery. The Gallery was perhaps the earliest form of reality TV. As muzak played in the background the camera simply panned 'art' submitted by school children up and down the land. I once met someone who had indeed been fortunate enough to have their work displayed

during this section of the show and I was left in awe.

But Hart did not work alone ploughing a lonely furrow as a key component of children's television. Oh no, he had help. There was Morph. A little brown plasticine figure who lived in Hart's art box – the grandfather to Wallace and Gromit and a creation of future Oscar-winner Nick Park. I assume he, Morph that is, still lives on and is currently in mourning for Hart. Cripes, if he still lives in that box I hope someone knows and can let him out for a stretch of his legs, otherwise we could face another tragedy.

In the meantime we must treasure those that remain. Mrs McCluskey from Grange Hill take good care of yourself. Brian Cant, keep safe and warm. Johnny Ball – think of a big number and live the equivalent in years.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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STACY-JANE BUTCHER

What are your thoughts on the council's £4million plan to improve Maidstone High Street?

I think it is a really good idea and will bring a lot of positives to the town. It will attract businesses to buy here, which will make jobs and will encourage tourism. It would be good if the improvements were com-

pleted before the 2012 London Olympics, as no doubt the event will increase tourism in Kent because we are so close to London and it would be good to have a county town we could be proud of.

How do you think it will affect other Maidstone businesses in the centre? Hopefully it will increase their profits and

will attract more customers to the whole of the town centre. I think the council could invest into Week Street as it is the busiest part of Maidstone but currently like a ghost town because of the shops closing.



TALK TIME

YOUR LETTERS



Letter to council was Gateway to objection

I wrote a letter of objection to Maidstone council about the proposed Kent International Gateway site in November 2007 and wish to re-iterate all the points made in that letter.

I own a property in Thurnham Lane that borders the proposed site.

The council asked for more highways reports. These still do not solve congestion issues on the roads from junction eight of the M20 and the KIG site.

There are more suitable sites off junction 11 of the M20, near the tunnel exit next to the new service centre.

Mr C Featherstone, of Maidstone, comment posted on web story at www.yourmaidstone.co.uk

Being greener with our bags is truly an art form

I was pleased to read about local artist Graham Clarke being used as an ambassador for the Bin the Plastic Bag campaign in last week's paper.

I am a great fan of his work and the gallery he runs. Hopefully he will be able to design an eco-friendly shopping bag that will have a wide appeal.

If shoppers are proud to carry a bag because it looks good then they will reuse it time and time again, which will solve the difficulty in getting people to remember to take bags out with them.

Karen Peters, from Borough Green
by email

Banning plastic bags will not rid us of hypocrisy

If Ben Matthews thinks we are going to save the world by getting rid of plastic bags, then he obviously hasn't been reading Yourmaidstone letters page! (Yourmaidstone letters page, issue 14/01)

It's just fiddling while Rome is burning! The Government hypocrisy of green taxes and brainwashing people into accepting petty rules and regulations, has already been given the lie by them calling for increased oil production, a third runway at Heathrow Airport and by sending our carefully sorted rubbish to be put in the same holes in other countries.

Among many other things. How about the lunacy of the DVLA wastefully crushing cars.

With any form of packaging the solution is quite simple, stop producing it in the first place.

Some items in stores have as much as two

or three layers of unnecessary packaging.

Plastic bottles should be banned and glass ones made returnable, not smashed, as the same amount of energy as before is needed to reform them – it's madness!

But whenever do our masters do anything that's sensible? The problem is, the genuine will be missing. Their sole priorities are themselves, taxes, big business and taxes.

Phil Granger, from West Malling
by email

Marketing a use for the old Woolworths stores

The suggestion that the redundant Woolworths stores which occupy such prominent positions in town centres should be converted into markets is an excellent one.

This would enable small traders to have a permanent place in the high streets of major towns and build up their customer base.

It would also be of great benefit to the local economy as the most likely users of such facilities would all come from the immediate area.

A range of new stalls would be an attraction to shoppers as well.

The debate about what to do with the Woolworths sites which remain unused should end now and this excellent suggestion taken up.

Brian Murrell
by email

It's not Ab Fab Gurkhas are still fighting for rights

The news that Joanna Lumley is yet again backing the Gurkhas in their bid to remain in this country without restrictions is obviously good.

But why does she need to keep fighting this issue.

It should have been settled ages ago and these brave men given the same rights as everybody else who can come here.

They contribute far more to this country than any number of economic migrants and the Government should be ashamed of the way it is dragging its feet over this.

Lucy Morgan, from Bearsted
by email

Being given money to slim is a big fat joke

It is ridiculous that fat people are being given a cash incentive to slim – why don't they just do it because of a sense of self respect?

They would be healthier and better off as they obviously would not be buying as much food to scoff.

Robert Mountjoy
by email

Government's plan a good idea? I wouldn't bank on it

The credit crunch has seen a number of unwelcome side issues to it and one of these is the vast sums of money being paid to bail out banks.

It is pure nonsense as all they can then offer is to lend it back to the taxpayers who forked out in the first place at added interest rates to pay their own wages.

Surely the best option would have been for the Government to offer tax breaks and



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rebates to people in work - they could then spend the money and generate wealth by boosting retail trade, going shopping, taking trips to other places or putting the cash towards buying a home.

Why give it to the banks? They caused the problem in the first place.

Jerry Purnell
by email

KCC need to sort it straight off the bat

With spring set to come in a month or so it's about time Kent Cricket Club started to build for the new season.

Following last year's relegation and loss in two finals surely there is a priority to bring in some top class players.

To my mind the batting is OK but the bowling, especially in the pace department, could do with strengthening.

The loss of Yasir Arafat is a grave blow and with the distinct possibility that either Amjad Khan and Robbie Joseph - or even both - could be involved in the England set up, resources look a little bit slim to say the least.

So let's see some good signings - above all of players who want to play for the county and are not just after a quick payday.

Philip Goodwin, from Maidstone
by email



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Pub took to food like a duck to water

Book now to enjoy a special Valentine's Day evening

■ The Wild Duck

THE inn now has a new restaurant and function room which is proving very popular with its ever increasing clientele.

A new menu is to be launched in the coming weeks, as is a special Valentine's Day selection. Booking is advisable for a romantic meal which will cost from £17.50 a head.

Live music is available in the pub which has food served every day.

On Monday to Friday the kitchen is open from noon until 3pm and from 6pm to 9pm while on Saturdays meal are cooked from noon until 9pm and Sundays from noon until 5pm.

The pub is in the attractive village of Marden and the chef ensures fresh local produce is to the fore when cooking the wide range of dishes.

Steak and ale pie is one of the most popular meals and the menu is always changing to reflect seasonal produce.

The warm and friendly pub prides itself on a traditional ambience which ensures customers can sip an unhurried drink – alcoholic or non alcoholic – as well as take



advantage of the excellent fare on offer.

Recent customers have included TV's Kevin McCloud who popped in while filming his Grand Designs show.

Janet Dunn, manager, said: "Attention to detail is what makes for a successful restaurant as well as listening to what it is customers want and then delivering."

CHEF RECOMMENDS

The Owl

Prawn and crab stack are a recommended starter. Follow this with guinea fowl supreme with black cherry jus on a bed of noodles. Creme brulee and home made shortbread finish the meal, washed down with a bottle of Terrain Melbec.

Yoons

Start with satay chicken or the sizzling king prawns, followed by Mongolian lamb with lettuce wrap. For another tasty dish try the lobster in sweet chilli sauce with crispy noodles prepared with mixed meat and seafood.

The Wild Duck

Try the popular duck cottage pie or fish of the day in the evening. Alternatively, the new lunchtime menu is good if you fancy a light bite in the bar with amazing views over the weald to warm up the winter blues.

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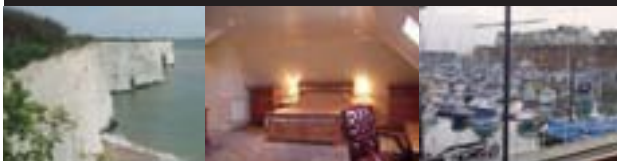
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BIG NAMES: Helen Ryan and Edward Fox are coming to Canterbury for four days of classic comedy at the Marlowe Theatre

Upper crust of comedy

Big screen stars act out blue blood adversity on stage

LLOYD GEORGE KNEW MY FATHER



Tuesday to Saturday, February 3-7
Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury

THE British aristocracy stands firm in the face of adversity in comedy classic, Lloyd George Knew My Father.

Film, television and stage legend Edward Fox and distinguished actress Helen Ryan star in William Douglas Home's play, which tells the tale of an eccentric couple whose stately home is threatened by progress. Described as a 'hilarious drawing room comedy', this hugely entertaining production features two great British stars at their best.

The Boothroyd family are facing disaster. It has been announced that a dual carriageway is to be built and the new road will run straight through the grounds of historic

Boothroyd Hall, which welcomed Charles the First as a guest the night before the Battle of Edgehill.

The resolute Lady Boothroyd declares she will kill herself the moment the bulldozers begin their destructive work, but will anyone be able to change her mind?

A member of the highly regarded Fox acting dynasty, Edward has starred in some of film and TV's most notable productions. He appeared alongside Michael Caine, Robert Redford and Sir Laurence Olivier in the 1977 film A Bridge Too Far and also had a role in the Oscar-winning Gandhi.

This is not his first foray into the world of the upper crust – Fox has even portrayed royalty, playing King Edward VIII in the popular 1980 mini-series, Edward and Mrs Simpson, for which he won a BAFTA. But he has also played characters from the other end of the social spectrum, such as the dignified butler Lane in a 2002 film version of Oscar Wilde's The Importance of Being

Earnest, starring Colin Firth and Rupert Everett.

Helen Ryan has made many stage and radio appearances and on screen she has acted in TV series as diverse as Green Wing and Midsomer Murders. Her film credits include Confetti and the Oscar nominated classic The Elephant Man.

The play's author was the brother of Sir Alec Douglas Home, who became Prime Minister in 1964. William Douglas Home was an aristocrat who began writing plays as a child, studied at RADA and went on to become a successful writer and dramatist. He served as an officer in the Second World War, but was stripped of his rank and sentenced to a year's hard labour after refusing to bomb Le Havre in France, on the grounds the civilians had not been evacuated.

Performances will be at 7.30pm daily with 2.30pm matinees on Thursday and Saturday. Tickets are priced from £12.50 to £23.50. Book at www.marlowetheatre.com or call the box office on 01227 787787.



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Picture: HERBERT HEIM

PAUL CARRACK
Saturday, February 7
Assembly Hall Theatre,
Tunbridge Wells

ONE of Britain's greatest pop and soul singers, Paul Carrack, will be visiting Tunbridge Wells next week.

Known to many as the voice of bands such as Mike and the Mechanics, the Sheffield-born singer and pianist first found fame with Ace, whose single How Long

reached the number one spot. He launched his solo career in 1980 and has worked with a multitude of music greats such as Squeeze, The Smiths, Simply Red, Eric Clapton and Elton John. Carrack also worked with Pink Floyd star Roger Waters and sang Hey You at Waters' 1990 Wall concert in Berlin.

His collaboration with Genesis guitarist Mike Rutherford in 1985 was to lead to even more success

with Mike and the Mechanics, leading to international fame with The Living Years single and album.

He will be performing songs from his greatest hits album, along with new singles Ain't No Love In The City and I Don't Want To Hear Any More.

The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £24.50/£23. To book call 01892 530613/ 532072 or visit www.assemb.lyhalltheatre.co.uk.

JUSTIN TOWNES EARLE

Monday, February 2
Zebra Bar, Maidstone

JUSTIN Townes Earle is following in his famous father's footsteps, but he is also becoming his own man in the music world.

The son of folk-rock icon Steve Earle, Justin makes his Maidstone debut next week alongside Belfast-born singer-songwriter Brian Houston. Although very different in style, they both share the admiration of BBC Radio 2's Bob Harris and are bringing their own quirky approach to Americana and rootsy country music.

Not just blessed with one



famous name, Earle is also named after the late Texas singer-songwriter Townes Van Zandt. Like both his namesakes, Earle has battled with his personal demons but has now overcome his drug problems to focus entirely on his compelling blend of classic country, folk and rock music.

Described as 'one of that husky breed of singers and writers who haunt the vague dividing lines between rock, country and folk', Houston has created a sound and style that is completely his own and is a great songwriter who can capture the full spectrum of emotions.

The concert starts at 8pm and tickets £11 in advance or £13 on the door. To book call 01622 744481.

SIMON YATES

Wednesday, February 4
Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone

SIMON Yates, one of the most successful mountaineers of his time, is inviting people to share his thrilling experiences.

Despite his many achievements in the field of climbing, Yates is perhaps best known as 'the man who cut the rope'. During a disastrous trip to Peru's Siula Grande in 1985, Yates' climbing partner Joe Simpson suffered a fall that resulted in him dangling, helpless, over a crevasse.

Unable to communicate with Simpson to find out if he was still alive, Yates faced the agonising choice between cutting the rope that connected them or being dragged to his own death. This compelling story was made famous in the film



Touching The Void, which re-enacted the peril and distress both men faced.

Nearly 25 years later, Yates is still mountaineering and has climbed to some of the world's highest, most treacherous peaks. Stunning images will transport the

audience to these breathtaking locations, while they will be entertained by Yates' dry wit and philosophical approach to his adventures.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £13. Call 01622 758611 or see www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk.

MAIDSTONE LEISURE

Who do you think is the best public artist?

ART lovers have the chance to nominate their favourite piece for the 2009 Rouse Kent Public Art Award.

A prize fund of £15,000 is on offer for artists who have created a popular public artwork between April 1, 2007 and March 31, 2009. For details see www.rousekentpublicartaward.co.uk. The closing date is March 30. The award is given every two years.

Be truly motivated at this charity fund-raiser

ENJOY an evening of motivation at the Ramada Hotel, Pembury.

The event is tomorrow in aid of Popenbury, a charity which enables adults with physical and learning difficulties. It will be hosted by Freddy H Jacquin, billed as the world's foremost hypnotherapist and motivational speaker. The evening starts at 6.30pm and tickets cost £10. Call 01892 822168.

Intense lyricism to be heard at the Zebra Bar

TONBRIDGE band Ghost In Mirrors will be showing off their intense and lyrical music at Sounds@Zebra.

Guitar hooks, tight rhythm and haunting lyrics combine to create the sophisticated songs that have attracted an enthusiastic audience to the band. They will be at the Zebra Bar, Maidstone, on Wednesday, February 4. The gig is at 7.45pm and tickets cost £5 on the door.

Have a laugh when the storyteller stands up

STAND-UP comedian Patrick Monahan will be playing for laughs at a Maidstone pub this week.

The Irish-Iranian comic is renowned for his warm storytelling style, having honed his craft by performing all over the world. Catch him in action at The Walnut Tree in Tonbridge Road tomorrow.

The show starts at 9.30pm, call the pub on 01622 720926.

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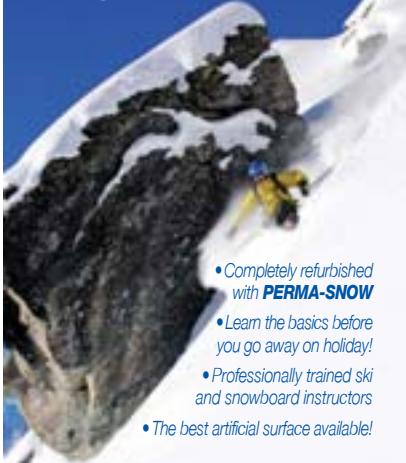
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MAIDSTONE SHOPPING

Enjoy free massages at exclusive store event

MUMS and mums-to-be can be pampered while getting an exclusive preview of a new baby care range at an event tonight.

The Body Shop is offering free hand and face massages, and skin consultations, at its Fremlin Walk store this evening.

The ladies will also get a preview of The Body Shop's Buriti Baby skin care range, made from the oil of the South African Buriti tree.

Get an old look at New Look with vintage chic

STEP back in time and get vintage chic with New Look.

Teardrop trim tops (£18), pleated A-line skirts (£25) and asymmetric belts (£8) will give girls a classic vintage look that will make others green with envy.

Team it with a funnel neck mack, cowboy boots (£60) and a vibrant bracelet (£6) and you'll have the perfect outfit.

To see more of New Look's range visit www.newlook.co.uk or go in store at The Mall Chequers or Water Lane stores

Superdrug stubs out the expense of quitting

SMOKERS who want to kick the habit can do so with help from Superdrug.

Save up to a third on selected Nicorette products such as a pack of 2mg low gum strength, £9.35 down from £13.99. A Nicorette inhalator was £20.10 and is now £13.27 and anti-smoking microtab tablets to help you overcome the urge are down from £19.49 to £12.87.

A seven pack of 15mg Step One patches is now £9.50, with Step Two at £14.29 and Step Three at £15.99.

Stérimar nose a good way to beat your cold

KEEP your nose clean and manage colds with the help of seawater-based nasal spray Stérimar.

Stérimar Isotonic (£5.99), is 100 per cent natural, drug free and safe for the whole family. Seawater contains elements known for their antiseptic, anti-inflammatory and anti-allergy properties.

Stérimar Hypertonic with Copper and Manganese (£6.99) offers relief from a blocked nose. Available from Boots, Lloyds Pharmacy, Co-Op and chemists.

Muchamore happening at Waterstone's store

CHILDREN'S author Robert Muchamore will be launching his new book, Henderson's Boys: The Escape, at Bluewater this weekend.

The author of the international best-selling CHERUB series will be signing copies of his new novel, which is the first in a brand new series of spin-off books. He will be appearing at Waterstone's from 1pm on Saturday.

Arrive early to avoid disappointment. Call the store on 01322 624831.

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DON'T MISS OUT: The Merton Farm extravaganza is proving one of the most popular on the music calendar and you can be there in 2009 as tickets go on sale this weekend

Festival excitement builds as early bird tickets arrive

EARLY bird tickets for this year's Lounge on the Farm festival go on sale this Sunday.

The discount tickets to the Canterbury three-dayer will be available from the official website.

Take my advice; get yours soon before they are all snapped up.

Tight-lipped Lounge organisers have confirmed precious little about this summer's offering apart from the basics but I can tell you this:

Lounge on the Farm, now in its fourth year, will once again take place in the glorious surroundings of Merton Farm, running from Friday, July 10 to Sunday 12.

The first line-up announcements will be made mid-March.

■ BY **SIMON ROBINSON**

Festival organiser Matt Gough said he was delighted to start work on putting LOTF 2009 together.

He said: "Kent's 'bestest' music festival is back. We were genuinely chuffed with how well last year's festival turned out – so aren't looking to make too many changes.

"If it ain't broke don't try to fix it. Four years old this time round so hopefully we'll be using all that experience and really start mixing it with the more-renowned festivals on the circuit – but in our own intimate style.

"What you can expect from Lounge on the Farm 2009 is the best in local music mixed-up with the cream of the international music scene.

"Add in a portion of the finest festival food and drink to grace a field – think local produce and local micro-brewed beers with a touch of class.

"Mix that up with a load of family fun, big smiles and a touch of the avant-garde and you've got one of the most enjoyable weekends in the Kentish calendar.

"Already with a few line-up treats up our sleeves, without a doubt this is going to be the best LOTF yet."

Last year's sell-out festival saw hundreds of top bands and artists perform across six stages, ranging from the Cow Shed to the Sheep Dip.

The line-up boasted the likes of Art Brut, The Coral, New York Dolls, Black Kids and Mystery Jets.

For more information and to buy early bird tickets visit www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk.

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FUN: Enjoy life at Lounge on the Farm – filmed last year. Search 'Lounge'



ROCKIN': Black Kids at last summer's hit Lounge on the Farm. Search 'Black'



TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

- 1 Euston – In My Headlights (from Deal)
- 2 The Flack – Animal (from Deal)
- 3 The Novels – Who Am I (from Ashford)
- 4 Shelta – Lets Talk (from Bexley)
- 5 Euston – Save (from Deal)



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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

CORONATION STREET
ITV1, Monday, 7.30pm & 8.30pm; Wednesday, 7.30pm; Friday, 7.30pm & 8.30pm

IT'S been a long time since Coronation Street was a regular part of my TV diet.

This most British of shows drifted off my radar a few years back, but post-Christmas seemed like an apt place to resume viewing.

After crowbar-wielding uber villain Richard Hillman had bumped off a fair number of the street's residents – but unfortunately not Hamster-faced Gail Platt – I figured it couldn't get any better.

In short, it seemed like a good place to call it a day.

On the recommendation of a friend however, I decided to take a look a few weeks back to see how life 'oop north' was being played out these days and what had become of the Rovers Return regulars.

She said it "was going great guns" so I tuned in, expectantly.

The good news is that Corrie still maintains a certain down-home humour, with characters like thick as two short planks Kirk, acid-tongued Blanche and, above all others, the curtain-twitching Norris, providing more than enough titter value.

Peter Barlow's battles with alcoholism have been deftly handled and the amusing arrest of Tyrone before his wedding was also great fun.

It is in its mainstay characters that Corrie comes into its own though.

This 30 minutes is as comforting as a cup of tea or an episode of Bullseye on UK Gold at Sunday tea time.

Just where would this country be without Emily Bishop, Kevin Webster, Rita Fairclough and intellectual moral



MUCH-LOVED: Coronation Street characters such as Norris Cole are now a TV institution

guardian of the working classes, Ken Barlow, as ever-presents on the box?

Up a creek without so much as a paddle, that's where.

I dread to think what would happen would happen if 'Our Ken' and his oddly fertile head of golden hair actually left the Street? The fall of civilisation as we know it, that's what.

More skilfully written than Emmerdale, and not as cloyingly self-aware as Hollyoaks, Corrie is, I'm glad to report, alive and kicking and miles ahead of its trashy counterparts.

Dripping in tradition, and with the kind of subtle acting the doughnuts on EastEnders would kill to be able to pull off, let's raise a pint of Newton and Ridley's best bitter to the Street.

If you are going to devote a significant part of your life keeping up to date with a soap opera, then at least have the sense to make it this one.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)
YOUR ideas get lots of attention this week. Be as bold and visionary as you dare. Nobody will laugh at your proposals. We're emerging from a very cautious period. Taking a risk will breathe new life into an organisation or relationship that is threatening to go stale.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)
IT may be time to pause and take stock of your career plans. If you've been thinking about switching industries, this is the year to do so. Have a talk with a respected executive who has experienced many professional twists and turns. Their advice will prove invaluable.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)
A MEETING of the minds gives you renewed hope for the future. At times you've despaired of ever meeting a person who truly understands you. Recently an intelligent person has entered your social circle. Together, you could form a powerful romantic or creative partnership.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)
TAKING a short trip to see family could be in the cards. At first this journey will seem like a hassle, but eventually you'll get into the spirit of things. If a relative asks for your honest opinion, give it. Be mindful of their feelings, though. It's possible to be truthful and tactful.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)
YOU'VE always been a solitary person and that's especially true this week. Daydreaming is infinitely more interesting than work. Unfortunately, you don't get paid much for fantasising. Therefore, you need to schedule time to expand your imagination.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 21)
YOU may have to undertake a long trip for work, education, health or religious reasons. Make sure your passport is up-to-date and you lock in your air and hotel fares. Heed your lover's advice with regard to your love life. Just because you are satisfied doesn't mean he or she is.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)
DEVISING a new routine will keep you happy and healthy. It's important to exercise every day. You're the type of person who stores stress in your body. Having a physical outlet for these frustrations will make you sleep better. If you're looking for a job, you could find one related to the media.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)
IT may be difficult to get off the phone this week. Everybody has been wondering where you've been. Actually, you probably haven't gone anywhere; you were just busy working. Still, it's nice to know you were missed. Take this opportunity to catch-up with friends.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)
PLANNING a reunion for friends is a good use of your time. Too often you get so wrapped up with work that you neglect your social life. Take this opportunity to set aside time for the people you love most. Negotiating a higher salary is a distinct possibility later in the week.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)
MONEY from an inheritance, tax refund or scholarship helps you to leave a restrictive situation. It's possible you feel guilty about leaving a friend or lover behind, but your very survival is at stake. Clinging to an unhealthy relationship will only make things worse.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)
ABANDON yourself to books, music, and movies this week. Lately you've been spending a lot of time cooped up at home. A social butterfly like you needs to get out and have fun. True, you have responsibilities, but they shouldn't consign you to a life of drudgery.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)
YOU'RE earning more money than ever so it's necessary to create a financial master plan or you could waste your time and effort. Keep in mind that you won't always be this flush. By putting a percentage of income into savings you'll create a secure financial foundation.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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At the end of the cruise we disembark after breakfast in Marseilles and take the TGV to Lille or Paris where we join the Eurostar to St Pancras, London, arriving early-to-mid evening.

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MEDIUM

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HARD

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CRYPTIC CLUES

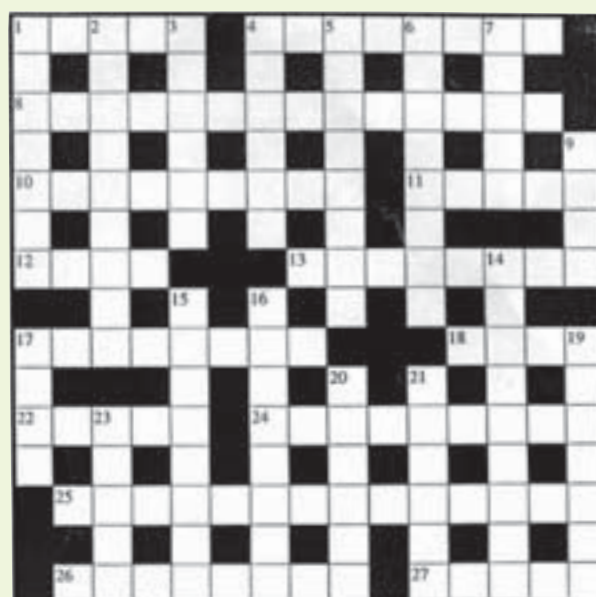
ACROSS

- 1 Primary graduates in charge (5)
- 4 Bottle contained 50 per cent, Jack concluded (8)
- 8 Coordinator with prize container (9-5)
- 10 Protect bird finding safety barrier (9)
- 11 Venetian magistrate trapped daughter's duck (5)
- 12 Underground pipe (4)
- 13 Scene Ron shifted into place appearing in television programme (2-6)
- 17 Contributor to state revenue (8)
- 18 Thoroughly replete (4)
- 22 Dog one going to a provincial senate (5)
- 24 By accepting ten, it appears, on chart depicting life history (9)
- 25 His improvement surprisingly not an enriching experience (14)
- 26 Scatter, it's only a light fall of rain (8)
- 27 Fertiliser tin returned by engineer (5)

DOWN

- 1 Bring in the past (7)
- 2 Notable fight by railway (6-3)
- 3 Lady is able first to find the country (6)
- 4 Sorrowful lads I'm shaking (6)
- 5 Lady is to come down in American state (8)
- 6 Jude and I can develop prejudice (8)
- 7 Soaked some of those denims (5)
- 9 Protein in maize included (4)
- 14 Kit's set of tools (9)
- 15 Dandy's pasta tubes (8)
- 16 Refreshing interval during working day (3-5)
- 17 Pile did not start with drawing-pin (4)
- 19 First gear? (7)
- 20 Not in any manner at present with one's sweetheart (6)
- 21 Raggedly-dressed child lurking within (6)
- 23 Do some more mapping and assign function to a different key (5)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Titlark (5)
- 4 Crustacean's cover (8)
- 8 In front of one's rivals (5,2,3,4)
- 10 Region in SW France (9)
- 11 Swill (5)
- 12 Vast (4)
- 13 People who are related (8)
- 17 Credulous (4-4)
- 18 Pant (4)
- 22 Life-giving (5)
- 24 Free musical composition (9)
- 25 Town in Leicestershire (5-2-2-5)
- 26 Marsupial (8)
- 27 Attain (3,2)

DOWN

- 1 Ancient Egyptian king (7)
- 2 Condemned beforehand (9)
- 3 Up to now (2,4)
- 4 Something added at the end (6)
- 5 Vigorous (8)
- 6 Tower block (4-4)
- 7 Melon (anag.) (5)
- 9 Stream (4)
- 14 In part payment (2,7)
- 15 Hothouse pest (5-3)
- 16 Juniper (3,5)
- 17 Billow (4)
- 19 Seer (7)
- 20 Greek sun-god (6)
- 21 Sharp turning (6)
- 23 Unit of flux (5)

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9	3	8	6	1	2	7	4	5
2	4	6	5	8	7	9	3	1
5	7	1	4	3	9	8	6	2
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MEDIUM

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HARD

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CRYPTIC SOLUTION No70

ACROSS: 1 Anchor 4 Caucus 10 Booby-trap 11 Flair 12 Cat's-paw 13 Ice-show 14 Recalcitrance 16 Lance-corporal 21 Aliquot 22 Regalia 24 Gland 25 Iguanodon 26 Exempt 27 Jaunty. **DOWN:** 1 Abbacy 2 Clout 3 Olympia 5 Alfreda 6 Cha-cha-cha 7 Strewn 8 Prawn cocktail 9 Splinter group 15 Eradicate 17 Clued-up 18 Organza 19 Tangle 20 Vainly 23 Laden.

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No71

Prophet 20 Apollo 21 Zigzag 23 Tesla 15 Mealybug 16 Red cedar 17 Wave 19 6 High-rise 7 Lemon 9 Beck 14 On account 2 Prejudged 3 To date 4 Surfex 5 Athletic Kangaroo 27 Get at. **DOWN:** 1 Pharaoh 24 Capriccio 25 Ashby-de-la-Zouch 26 13 Kinfolk 17 Wide-eyed 18 Gasp 22 Vital the game 10 Aquitaine 11 Rinsed 12 Huge **ACROSS:** 1 Prit 4 Seashell 8 Ahead of

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

ON GENERAL RELEASE

MILK (15)



Based on a true story, Milk stars Sean Penn as Harvey Milk, California's first openly gay elected official, who forged coalitions and fought for human rights across the spectrum.

VALKYRIE (12A)



Valkyrie tells the true story of the attempt to assassinate Hitler. Colonel Claus Schenk Graf von Stauffenberg (Tom Cruise) conceives a shadow government for when the Fuhrer has been killed.

THE WRESTLER (15)



Mickey Rourke plays Randy 'The Ram' Robinson, a top wrestler from the 80s, tempted into a rematch with an old wrestling rival despite having a heart condition which could cost him his life.

Michael plays out of his skin in lead role as Frost

■ BY SARAH O'MEARA

PEOPLE don't tend to recognise the name Michael Sheen until you mention Tony Blair.

Better known for his uncannily life-like impersonation of the former Prime Minister in the 2006 film *The Queen*, than for his roles in *Blood Diamond* and *Laws of Attraction*, the boyish 39-year-old actor is still trying to break free from Downing Street.

He's managed an escape of sorts in new film *Frost/Nixon*, where he plays another British institution, Sir David Frost.

The film began as a play by Peter Morgan and has already been a hit with stage critics, but will British film audiences admire his portrayal of the much-loved television journalist as much as they adored his Tony Blair?

In *Frost/Nixon*, David Frost is presented as a failing 70s TV personality, desperate to boost his flagging career. In a bid to make his name, he buys the first-ever television interview with disgraced ex-president Richard Nixon after the Watergate scandal.

Hoping to force an admission of guilt from Nixon and make broadcasting history, Frost takes on the ferocious former president who has other ideas.

Michael says the reaction to the play on London, Broadway and finally on screen, has been extraordinary.

"I talked with people who've seen the play, and the movie, and they say they get to a certain point and realise they haven't breathed for a minute. Any story that makes anybody that engaged, well it's a good sign."

The Welsh actor's knack for disappearing under the skins of famous men (he played Oscar's lover in *Wilde* and Kenneth Williams in *Fantabulosa*) assured him a safe acting passage to Hollywood.



COMPELLING: Michael Sheen stars as David Frost

But despite recent roles in *Blood Diamond*, alongside Leonardo DiCaprio, and *Laws of Attraction*, starring Pierce Brosnan and Julianne Moore, Michael still hasn't managed to eclipse the fame of his 'real life' characters. *Frost/Nixon* may change that.

Watching his attempts to catch out the former president (Frank Langella), is utterly compelling. Critics say his performance as the egotistical Frost could win him an Oscar.

"I felt like every time we did the performance, and then the film, whenever we were together there was always something real going on. It was never a repeat of what had been done before," he says.

The son of a part-time Jack Nicholson look-alike, Sheen says the hardest part of moving the play from stage to film was keeping it real.

"The challenge was to play someone who has, on the surface, a superficiality and light-

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weightness, but to try and get across how much things are unravelling underneath."

Luckily, the well-respected TV presenter has been gracious about the play, and the film. But Michael says that playing a person who is still alive can be complicated.

"I avoided meeting Sir David until after we opened on stage because it's a warts and all portrayal, and he's such an engaging, nice man."

Under strict orders to stay away from the notable television personality, Michael admits he accidentally bumped into him midway through rehearsals.

"I'd been sworn off seeing him by writer, Peter Morgan, and then I saw him walking down the street one day. I have to admit I was his stalker and followed him. I watched how he walked and all that sort of stuff, and took pictures of him on my mobile phone. To this day he's not even aware of that!"

FROST/NIXON
Certificate 15



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PROPERTY NEWS

'Browsers' boost levels in interest but not sales

THE first weeks of 2009 have seen a surge in "browsing" for new homes, with the number of enquiries from those seeking to look at properties more than doubling even as actual sales stay low.

One online home sales group says enquiries are up to 429,560 in the four weeks to January 10 from 199,762 in the same period last year.

But potential sellers are discouraged by the falling market.

There were 43,000 new listings in the month to January 10, compared with 89,000 in the same period last year.

• Read what's really happening in your part of the county by visiting www.kentnews.co.uk/readmore.

Government support is welcomed by lenders

THE Council of Mortgage Lenders says it welcomes the Government's announcements to support lending in the economy.

The group said the conditions and level of fees imposed on lenders who wish to use the new measures will be particularly important in determining their effectiveness.

Members say this should mean more of the funding that is available may go towards home purchases rather than remortgaging, which would help to support wider activity in the market.

Get a price and advice on how to sell today

ONE estate agent is hoping to breathe new life into the market by encouraging home owners to get their homes valued.

Your Move across east Kent is offering the traditional free valuation but also £200 off fees as well as advice on the realities of selling now.

There's also advice available for those considering renting their property too with discounted landlord fees.

Jackie Davies, area sales director, said: "Many people know that the traditionally busy selling period will soon be upon us but may have concerns as to whether it is appropriate to sell, or rent, particularly in the current market."

"Across south east Kent we are hosting special 'valuation days' on February 5, 6 and 7 where people can check demand and value of their home. All for free."

For further details contact your local Your Move estate agent or visit www.your-move.co.uk.



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BARGAIN: Prices are still falling and discounts are to be had - up to 35 per cent in some cases. And with interest rates slashed too this could be the perfect time to snap up a home

Amid the gloom comes light for eager buyers

■ BY NICK AMES

IT will hardly come as a show to discover the general view among those in the property market is that 2009 is not shaping up to be a good year.

But there is still some encouraging news around for those who want to move house.

First the bad news. Prices are still falling — after a 15.9 per cent drop in 2008, according to the Nationwide — and some sellers are accepting offers of 20 per cent less than their asking prices while interest rates have been dropped to an all-time low in an effort to get things moving again.

But analysts have some good news — if you're not caught in negative equity — and can put

down a decent deposit — now could be an extremely good time to buy, they claim.

This is because so many homes are selling at a discount and others are coming on to the market cheaply as they have been repossessed.

Other figures show that some mortgage deals are being offered which are actually cheaper than renting in an effort by lenders to boost the market and get it moving again.

Figures released last week by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors showed that although the number of properties sold hit a record low at the end of last year, the

number of enquiries rose at the fastest pace since August 2006.

Research by estate agent Savills shows by the third quarter of 2007, when property values peaked, buying was 44 per cent more expensive than renting.

With the subsequent fall in prices, however, the gap is closing or not there at all.

"It's a cracking time to be buying," says James Greenwood, managing director of the property-search agency Stacks. "There's hardly any competition out there at the moment, so you've got the field to yourself. Prices have been discounted, there are distressed sellers who have to sell and there are some real bargains to be had, anything between 30 per cent and 35 per cent off peak value. We haven't seen anything like this for years."

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Source: • Customer satisfaction survey, Dec 2007
 • Property portal visitor stats Jan 2008
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 • Guest Bedroom With En-Suite • Family Room

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MAIDSTONE £165,000



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 • End Of Terrace Home • 3 Bedrooms • 17 X 10 Modern
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 • Spacious Semi Detached Home • 4
 Bedrooms • Master Bedroom With En-suite

MAIDSTONE £249,995



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 • New Development Of 7 Townhouses
 • Completion Late 2008 • 4 Bedrooms

LANGLEY £165,000



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 • Refurbished Terraced Home • 2 Double
 Bedrooms • Lounge • Kitchen/ Dining Room

HARRIETSHAM £229,995



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 • Modern End Terrace Home • Cottage Style Over 3 Floors
 • 3 Bedrooms • Contemporary Style Lounge/Dining Room

COXHEATH £109,950



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 • Purpose Built Apartment • 2 Double Bedrooms
 • Village Location • Double Glazed Where Stated

COXHEATH £245,000



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 • Detached Bungalow • Particularly Well Presented
 • Favourable Village Location • Two Double Bedrooms

MAIDSTONE £285,000



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 • Detached Family Home • 4 Double Beds
 • Bed 1 With Dressing Rm & Ensuite

MAIDSTONE £177,500



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 • Top Floor Apartment • 2 Beds • 14ft
 Kitchen/Dining Room • Vaulted Ceiling

DOWNSWOOD £134,500



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 • 1 Bedroom Starter Home • Living Room/Dining
 Room • Fitted Kitchen • Bathroom W/C

MAIDSTONE £330,000



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 • Sought After Cul-de-sac • Favoured Loose Area
 • Updated And Well Presented • Bold Corner Plot Gardens

MAIDSTONE £179,950



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 • Detached Bungalow • Approx 1 Mile To Shops And Station
 • Favoured North Maidstone Area • Scope For Updating

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 • Lower Ground Floor Flat • 0.5 Mile Town
 Centre • 1 Mile Rail Station • Two Bedrooms

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 • 1930s Style Semi Detached • 3 Beds
 • 2 Receptions • Garage To The Rear

BEARSTED £250,000



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 • Extended & Refurbished • Semi Detached
 • 3 Bedrooms • Lounge & Modern Kitchen

BEARSTED £249,950



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 • 2 Double Bedrooms - Master Ensuite • Refurbished Character
 Property • Inglenook Feature Fireplace • Modern Kitchen

LOOSE £299,995



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 • Detached Bungalow • Sought After Loose Location • Well
 Presented And Flexible Accommodation • Three Bedrooms

MAIDSTONE £82,500



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 • First Floor Apartment • Town Centre Location •
 Within Access To Railway Station • One Bedroom

MAIDSTONE £242,000



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MAIDSTONE OIEO £250,000

A four bedroom semi detached home in a popular location. The property enjoys a rear garden with a pleasant southerly aspect. There is a living room, sitting room and a kitchen.

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MAIDSTONE OIEO £170,000

A late 19th Century semi. This family home has an entrance lobby and hall, lounge/diner, cellar, kitchen overlooking rear garden, upstairs two double bedrooms, fourth bedroom/study and shower room.

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PENENDEN HEATH OIEO £200,000

An improved three bedroom semi detached home in the popular area of Penenden Heath. This family home benefits from a 14' re-fitted kitchen and a 10' re-fitted bathroom.

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MAIDSTONE OIEO £185,000

A re-furnished two double bedroom detached home. The property has a 23' lounge/diner, a re-fitted contemporary oak style kitchen and a cloakroom/utility area to the ground floor with two bedrooms.

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MAIDSTONE OIEO £288,000

A modern detached family home built by David Wilson Homes. This fabulous home has five bedrooms (two of which are ensuite). There are three reception rooms together with a 16' kitchen/breakfast room.

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MAIDSTONE OIEO £265,000

An extended four/five bedroom semi-detached home north of Maidstone town centre. There is a 16' living room and a separate dining room and a spacious 13' kitchen. Downstairs cloakroom.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

MAIDSTONE, £132,500

PROPERTY ADDRESS : 8 HIGHLAND ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT ME15 7QH We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £127,500 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

MAIDSTONE £104,950

PROPERTY ADDRESS : 110 KINGSLEY ROAD MAIDSTONE KENT ME15 7UP We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £90,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891

MAIDSTONE £249,950

An individual and substantial three bedroom family home set back off of Lower Fant. There are three bedrooms and a split level lounge/dining room separated by a feature brick fireplace.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891

ALLINGTON £280,000

A four bedroom detached home with ensuite located in a cul-de-sac location. This property benefits from a re-fitted kitchen and a utility room. There is a double glazed conservatory.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891

MAIDSTONE £110,000

A modern ground floor two bedroom apartment with gas central heating and double glazing. There is a 15' living room which is open plan to a fitted kitchen which includes fitted appliances.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891

EAST FARLEIGH OIEO £200,000

An extended semi-detached home in a pleasant semi-rural location with orchards to the front. There are three reception rooms, double glazed conservatory and a re-fitted 16' shaker style kitchen.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

MAIDSTONE £137,950

PROPERTY ADDRESS : 6 OLD SCHOOL PLACE, MAIDSTONE ME14 1EQ We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £132,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

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MAIDSTONE £145,000

An end of terraced house with three bedrooms all with fitted wardrobes. There is double glazing, gas central heating and an 18' kitchen/dining room. Other benefits include a southerly aspect garden.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891

MAIDSTONE £165,000

A modernised and re-furnished three bedroom home with modern fitted kitchen and bathroom, gas central heating and double glazing. There are two reception areas, off road parking to the rear.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891

MAIDSTONE OIEO £159,995

A super three bedroom family home with gas central heating and double glazing. Other benefits include a double glazed conservatory. There is no stamp duty payable on this property.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891

MAIDSTONE £199,500

A three bedroom semi detached home with a garden. This property has double glazing, gas central heating, two reception rooms and a utility area across the back of the dining room.

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SUTTON VALENCE OIEO £169,950

A three bedroom home with a rear garden in excess of 150' backing onto farmland. Other benefits include gas central heating, double glazing and off road parking for two cars at the front.

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PENENDEN HEATH OIEO £375,000

A super four bedroom detached home with ensuite bathroom, three reception rooms and a kitchen/breakfast room. Other benefits include a cloakroom, gas central heating, double glazing, double garage.

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MAIDSTONE £455,000

An impressive detached Victorian home sympathetically improved by its current owners. The property benefits from many original features and are complimented by a contemporary kitchen and a bathroom.

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LARKFIELD £395,000

A vastly improved and spacious detached family home. This home has a contemporary feel and we feel sure that this will be appreciated by all who view.

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MAIDSTONE, OIEO £150,000

An older style three bedroom home with spacious accommodation. There are two separate reception rooms and ground floor WC. The property also benefits from gas central heating, double glazing.

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MAIDSTONE OIEO £112,500

A two bedroom terraced home situated within close proximity to Maidstone town centre. The property benefits from an open plan lounge dining room, cellar and an upstairs shower room.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891

MAIDSTONE £119,950

A unique two bedroom Grade II Listed terraced home in Maidstone. The accommodation is arranged over three floors and has a modern kitchen and bathroom but does require some work.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891

MAIDSTONE £195,000

A three bedroom semi detached home with a 16' conservatory. Other saleable features include gas central heating, double glazing and cavity wall insulation. An internal viewing is recommended.

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Grove Green Office
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2 The Minor Centre, Grove Green,
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Weaving £439,995

Five bedroom extended detached house, three reception rooms, two en-suites, double garage

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Sandling £395,000

5 bedroom detached house with 2 bathrooms, 32' lounge/diner + family room. Extensive rear garden and no chain.

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Weaving £335,000

4 bedroom detached house, conservatory, tandem garage, adaptable accommodation, en-suite shower room, no chain.

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Detling £325,000

4 bedroom detached bungalow, fantastic bathroom and separate shower room, office and workshop, conservatory

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Weaving £315,000

4 bedroom detached, UPVC double glazing, modernised throughout, private rear garden

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Weaving £299,950

Extended 4 bed detached, cloakroom, two en-suites, gas fired central heating, UPVC double glazing, private garden and garage

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Maidstone £295,000

4 bedroom detached chalet bungalow with fitted kitchen, conservatory, landscaped gardens, driveway and garage.

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Bearsted £250,000

Three bedroom semi-detached, generous sized garden, garage, no chain

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Vinters Park £250,000

Three bedroom detached, UPVC double glazing, gas central heating, private rear garden

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Bearsted £247,500

3 bedroom semi, refitted kitchen and bathroom, double glazing, gas central heating, rear garden approx. 130ft

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Weaving £239,995

Three bedroom detached, refitted kitchen and bathroom, UPVC double glazing, garage and driveway

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East Farleigh, £235,000

3 bed Mews style property overlooking the River Medway with mooring rights. 1st floor lounge. Kitchen/diner. 2 parking spaces.

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Bearsted £234,995

Extended 3 bedroom semi, re-fitted bathroom suite, UPVC double glazing, central heating

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Maidstone £170,000

2 bedroom 1st floor apartment, en-suite shower, kitchen/breakfast room, lounge/diner, allocated parking.

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Maidstone £165,000

2 bedroom semi-detached bungalow, corner plot, lovely gardens, C/H. D/G. Garage. No chain.

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Vinters Park £165,000

Three bedroom terrace, gas fired central heating, double glazing, garage en-bloc

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Downswood £164,995

Two bedroom semi-detached in sought after location, garage, no chain

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Maidstone £155,000

2 double bedroom terrace house with stripped wood floors, feature fireplaces, no onward chain and in very good condition.

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Maidstone £139,995

3 bedroom terraced home, kitchen/dining room, off street parking, no onward chain

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Detling OIEO £108,000

2 bedroom ground floor flat, double glazing, front and rear gardens, village location

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Maidstone £90,000

Modern 3rd floor studio apartment, town centre location on riverside development with balcony. No chain.

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Maidstone Guide Price £89,995

To be sold at auction on 24.02.2009. 3 bed terrace house. lounge. kitchen/diner and bathroom. No chain.

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Maidstone £58,250 - £65,000

Selection of new one and two bedroom apartments up to 50% Shared Ownership with allocated parking.

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PUBLIC NOTICE



12 The Laurels, Western Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 8PW

We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £80,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.













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Lee Heights £124,950  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Bedroom First Floor Flat • Purpose Built • 18'5 Lounge / Kitchen • No Chain, En Suite 	Freslands £154,995  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fantastic 2 Bedroom 1st Floor Flat • Double Glazed, ideal FTB • Modern fitted kitchen & bathroom • Allocated parking space 	Aylesford £129,995  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top floor 2 Bedroom Apartment • Views of the North Downs & River • Garage, Juliette Balcony • NO CHAIN!!!! 	Boughton Monchelsea £249,995  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stunning 4 Bedroom Detached • 2 Reception Rooms, Cul De Sac • 14 Foot Conservatory • En Suite to Master Bedroom 	Maidstone £194,995  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home • Off Road parking for 3 Cars • 15'11 x 9'6 Conservatory • Double Glazing, Modern Kitchen 	Bower Street £159,995  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Bedroom Mid Victorian Terrace • 16'2 x 10' Modern kitchen/diner • Attractive Bathroom, 3 storeys • NO ONWARD CHAIN!!!
Cumberland Ave £115,000  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Floor 2 bedroom Maisonette • Rear Garden, Balcony • Close to Local Amenities • Double Glazing 	Coxheath £215,000  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village Location • Modern fitted Kitchen • Off Road Parking and Garage • Double Glazing, Lounge/diner 	Bell Meadow £174,950  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Property • Set back from Road, No Chain! • Driveway Parking for 4 Cars • Front and Rear Gardens 	Caernarvon Drive £174,950  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 bed Semi Detached House • Integral Garage and Drive • Conservatory, NO CHAIN! • Shower room to Master Bedroom 	Tovil £109,500  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Bedroom Flat, Ensuite • Modern fitted kitchen • Juliette balcony • NO CHAIN!! 	Kingfisher Meadow £96,000  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top floor Studio apartment • Gated development, • Balcony, Purpose built • Lifts and concierge, NO CHAIN

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Bairstow eves

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Countrywide

Maidstone  £119,950 Unique four bedroom house in town centre, no onward chain and viewing via agent. Viewing recommended.	Maidstone  £134,950 Property has two bedrooms plus an open plan living area, bathroom and en-suite shower room, balcony and hallway.	Maidstone  £134,995 Three bedroom family house, Lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory, bathroom, driveway parking to front.	Maidstone  Offer in excess of £139,995 Modern two bedroom apartment. The apartment offers parking, en suite, bathroom, lounge/diner and kitchen.	Barming  £149,995 Two double bedroom retirement bungalow, two bathrooms, garden and resident's parking and with no chain.
Maidstone  £149,995 Two bedroom property, Off road parking driveway to the side, lounge, kitchen/breakfast room.	Maidstone  Offer in excess of £180,000 Very popular cul de sac, two receptions, hallway, downstairs WC, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom.	Maidstone  £219,995 Family home, parking, garden, plus lounge/diner, kitchen, cloakroom, four bedrooms and shower room.	Maidstone  Offer in region of £244,995 A four bedroom property that benefits from a corner plot and a cul de sac position in the Allington area.	Detling  £349,995 Three bedroom detached property, single storey, in a location epitomises semi rural surroundings.

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- 2 Bedroom Retirement Property
- Secluded But Central Location
- Own Small Garden To Rear

Enquire Maidstone

OIEO £125,000

Bradbourne Fields

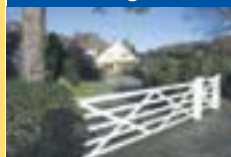


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- En-Suite And Conservatory
- Pleasant Cul-De-Sac Location

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£279,995

Addington



- 4 Bedroom Detached Home
- Approximately 1 Acre Plot
- Secluded Gated Entrance

Enquire West Malling

£550,000 - £595,000

Platts Heath



- 2/3 Bed Detached Bungalow
- Good Size Rear Garden
- Driveway

Enquire Lenham

£210,000

Chart Sutton



- 3 Bed Detached Bungalow
- Quiet Cul-De-Sac Location
- Garage And Driveway

Enquire Headcorn

£334,995

East Farleigh



- 3 Bedroom Country Home
- Excellent Size Accommodation
- Refurbished Interior

Enquire Maidstone

GUIDE PRICE £169,995-£189,995

Aylesford



- 4 Bedroom End Of Terrace
- 2 En-Suites, River Views
- Garage, Landscaped Gardens

Enquire Larkfield

£275,000

Kings Hill



- 3 Bedroom Detached House
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Front And Rear Gardens

Enquire West Malling

£249,995

Leybourne Lakes



- 4 Bedroom Family Home
- Garage, Off Road Parking
- Sought After Lakeside

Enquire Larkfield

£265,000

West Malling



- 3 Bedroom Extended Home
- Conservatory And Office Space
- Planning Permission To Extend

Enquire West Malling

£245,000

Lenham



- Large Detached Rural Home
- Heated Swimming Pool
- Double Garage

Enquire Lenham

£465,000

Headcorn



- Two Bedroom Home
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- No Forward Chain

Enquire Headcorn

£224,995

Loose Village



- 3 Bed Semi-Detached Home
- Wonderful Loose Village Area
- Garage And Parking To Rear

Enquire Maidstone

£220,000 - £240,000

Kings Hill



- 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached
- En-Suite And Dressing Room
- No Forward Chain

Enquire West Malling

£225,000

Staplehurst



- Four Bedroom Mid Terrace
- Refurbishment Project
- 47'0" Rear Garden

Enquire Headcorn

£149,950

South Maidstone



- 4 Bedroom Extended Home
- Popular Tree Lined Road
- Approx 160ft Rear Garden

Enquire Maidstone

£325,000

Ditton



- 4 Bedroom Chalet Bungalow
- Tandem Garage And Parking
- 50 X 50 Foot Rear Garden

Enquire Larkfield

£265,000

Harrietsham



- Three Bedroom Bungalow
- Quiet Cul-De-Sac
- Driveway And Garage

Enquire Lenham

£390,000

TO LET



- SNODLAND
- 3 Bedroom Middle Terrace
- Recent Refurbished

Enquire Lettings

£650 PCM

TO LET



- WATERINGBURY
- 2 Bedroom Cottage
- Modern Fitted Kitchen

Enquire Lettings

£650 PCM

TO LET



- DITTON
- 2 Bedroom Middle Terrace
- Courtyard Garden

Enquire Lettings

£650 PCM

TO LET



- LENHAM
- 2 Bedroom Retirement Home
- Communal Gardens

Enquire Lettings

£750 PCM

TO LET



- LARKFIELD
- 2 Bedroom Bungalow
- Recently Refurbished

Enquire Lettings

£725 PCM

TO LET



- CHARING
- 2 Bedroom Character Cottage
- Well Presented Throughout

Enquire Lettings

£725 PCM

TO LET



- MAIDSTONE
- 2 Bedroom Luxury Apartment
- Fully Fitted Kitchen

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£795 PCM

TO LET



- HARRIETSHAM
- 3 Bedroom Bungalow
- Spacious Accommodation

Enquire Lettings

£1,150 PCM

TO LET



- LEYBOURNE
- 3 Bedroom Bungalow
- Recently Refurbished

Enquire Lettings

£1,200 PCM

TO LET



- HOLBOROUGH
- 5 Bedroom Detached Home
- Well Presented Throughout

Enquire Lettings

£1,350 PCM

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Rydon

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MOTORS NEWS



Alfa turns on small car style with super MiTo

RESURGENT Alfa Romeo has the new MiTo supermini in showrooms (from £10,995) and the Mini firmly in its sights.

Alfa has concentrated on eye-catching style and a good choice of petrol or diesel engines, but the small turbocharged 1.4-litre petrol units seem best suited to upholding Alfa's sporting tradition while meeting current needs for economy, hitting 60mph in eight seconds while averaging up to 46mpg, depending on output.

The newcomer also gets a maximum five stars in the Euro NCAP crash test.



Ka shows cash squeeze in the baby car sector

FORD'S all-new Ka city car has arrived as car buyers think smaller, but pricing is tight at the bottom of the market.

So the cheapest newcomer (from £7,995) undercuts its predecessor by £350.

The Ka 'Mark II' has also been promoted by the latest James Bond film Quantum of Solace – with glamorous Bond girl Olga Kurylenko seen at its wheel.

The newcomer is offered with 68bhp 1.2-litre petrol or 74bhp 1.3 diesel power, both qualifying for the cheapest payable road tax band (£35/year).



Baby Citroën is nosing ahead of its little rivals

CITROËN'S eco-friendly C1 city car (from £7,595) has a butch new front end for 2009, improved cabin and even better CO2 emissions and fuel economy.

Launched in 2005, the C1 is now one of the UK's slowest depreciating and greenest cars, with the new model offering improved CO2 emissions as low as 106g/km. The 1.0-litre petrol engine also now offers improved fuel consumption of up to 62.8mpg on the combined cycle while the 1.4HDI diesel offers an amazing 68.9mpg. Two new C1 trims are offered.



NEW KID ON THE BLOCK: Vauxhall will be attacking German prestige marques BMW/Mercedes/Audi with their new-look Insignia which costs a lot less than its rivals

New Insignia stands for a big change in attitude

ROAD TEST VAUXHALL INSIGNIA

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

fleet customers. The Insignia places it under pressure on all counts and prices start from a modest £15,935 – some £500 less than the final Vectra line-up. Styling is enhanced by two neat touches: blacked out door pillars lower a roofline that already makes the Vauxhall look like a four-door coupé, while the 'blade' detail abaft the front wheel is a master touch suggesting power and muscle.

If the car's sharp suit worries BMW/Merc/Audi then the lining offers little relief even if let down by the budget feel of controls for the driver's seat and other minutiae.

But remember the Insignia is still selling for Vectra prices. Even the sporty 'rep's favourite' SRi model we tested, with its aluminium pedals, climate control, comfy sports seats – including extendable seat base – quality sound system and smart alloys, starts at just over £18,000.

Diesel sales should dominate, of course, but our car's all-new 220PS (218bhp) 2.0-litre Turbo petrol engine impressed and could become the cult engine to complement the Insignia's taut yet supple chassis, for the Vectra's replacement looks and feels more like a driver's than a 'rep's car'. Do not dismiss without a road test.



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BY STEVE LOADER @
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08 08 SKODA ROOMSTER 2 AUTO PAS AIR/C MET GREY 450 MILES.....	£9995
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08 08 VW POLO 1-4 MATCH 6 SPEED AUTO 5DR AIR BLACK 1000 MILES.....	£9995
08 08 VW POLO 1-4 MATCH 6 SPEED AUTO 5DR AIR BLACK 3000 MILES.....	£9995
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08 08 MICRA ACCENTA PLUS 5 DOOR AUTO BLACK PAS AIR/C 1900 MILES.....	£7995
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08 57 RENAULT MEGANE 1-6 EXPRESSION 4DR AUTO GREY 9000 MILES.....	£7495
08 57 NISSAN MICRA 1-6 CONVERTIBLE CC ASENTA AUTO PAS GREY.....	£10995
07 57 MERCEDES C180 KOMP AVANTGARDE SE CUBANITE 13000 MILES.....	£16995
07 57 RENAULT MODUS INITIALE 1-6 AUTO PAS LEATHER 9000 MILES.....	£9995
07 57 NISSAN NOTE TEKNA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR BLUE 1500 MILES.....	£9995
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07 57 NEW MODEL MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 2000 MILES.....	£7995
07 57 NEW ZAFIRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C TURQUOISE 1000 MILES.....	£8995
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FORD FUSION & FIESTA

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06 06 FOCUS 1-6 LX 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C TONIC BLUE 1200 hundred MILES.....	£7995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 LX 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER METALLIC 12000 MILES.....	£6495
05 55 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA ESTATE 5DR AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS BLUE 4000 MILES.....	£7995
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05 55 FOCUS 1-6 LX 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C JEANS BLUE 15000 MILES.....	£5995
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FORD FOCUS

05 05 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC 3DR AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS ROSSO 12000 MILES.....	£4995
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04 04 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA 5 DR AUTO PAS LEATHER TONIC BLUE 24000 MILES.....	£5995
03 03 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA ESTATE CAR AUTO PAS AIR/C ROSSO 53000 MILES.....	£3995
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CITROEN

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07 07 CITROEN C3 1-6 SX AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE METALLIC 10000 MILES.....	£6995
06 56 CITROEN PICASSO 2-0 EXCLUSIVE AUTO SILVER 5000 MILES.....	£8995
05 55 CITROEN PICASSO 2-0 EXCLUSIVE AUTO WICKED RED 17000 MILES.....	£6995
05 05 CITROEN PICASSO 2-0 EXCLUSIVE AUTO BLUE MET 8000 MILES.....	£5995
05 05 CITROEN C4 1-6 SX AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER MET 19000 MILES.....	£5495

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04 54 LAND ROVER FREELANDER 1-8 XEI BLACK AIR/C 5 SPEED 38000 MILES.....	£5995
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06 06 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER 5DR TOURING SILVER BIRCH 6000 MILES.....	£6495
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07 56 MAZDA 3 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C WINNING BLUE 11000 MILES.....	£7995
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06 56 NISSAN MICRA CONVERTIBLE SPORT AUTO PAS AIR GREY 9000MILES.....	£9995
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06 56 NISSAN NOTE 1-6 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C VIVID BLUE 3000 MILES.....	£6995
06 06 NISSAN NOTE 1-6 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C CAFFE LATTE 32000MILES.....	£5995
06 55 NISSAN MICRA 1-4 SVE 3DR AUTO PAS AIR/C PACIFIC BLUE 8000MILES.....	£5495
06 55 NISSAN ALMERA 1-8 SE AUTO PAS 5DR SILVER 6000 MILES.....	£4995
06 06 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 S 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER BIRCH 10000 MILES.....	£5995
05 55 NISSAN MICRA 1-4 SVE 3DR AUTO PAS AIR TECHNO GREY 8000MILES.....	£5495
05 55 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 S AUTO PAS 5 DR BLADE SILVER 14000 MILES.....	£5995
05 55 NISSAN ALMERA 1-8 SE AUTO PAS 5DR MERLOT RED 15000 MILES.....	£4995
05 05 NISSAN TINO 1-8 S AUTO PAS TECHNO GREY METALLIC 15000 MILES.....	£4995
03 53 NISSAN TINO 1-8 S AUTO PAS MERLOT METALLIC 17000 MILES.....	£3995
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01 51 ROVER 45 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C NIGHTFIRE RED 35000 MILES.....	£2995
Y 01 ROVER 25i L 5 DOOR AUTO PAS SUNROOF BLUE 26000 MILES.....	£2895

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07 57 CHEVROLET MATIZ -80 SE AUTO PAS BLUE METALLIC 3000 MILES.....	£5495
07 07 CHEVROLET TACUMA 2-0 CDX AUTO PAS AIR MET BLUE 4000 MILES.....	£4995
07 56 CHEVROLET TACUMA 2-0 CDX AUTO PAS AIR MET BLUE 7000 MILES.....	£4995
07 56 CHEVROLET LACETTI 1-6 SX AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 4000 MILES.....	£4995
06 56 CHEVROLET MATIZ -80 SE AUTO PAS BLUE METALLIC 5000 MILES.....	£4995
06 06 CHEVROLET KALOS 1-4 SX AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 8000 MILES.....	£4995
06 06 CHEVROLET MATIZ -80 SE AUTO PAS BLUE METALLIC 16000 MILES.....	£4495

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07 57 VW POLO 1-4 S 3DR AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS BLACK 7000 MILES.....	£7995
07 07 VW POLO 1-4 S 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 12000 MILES.....	£8495
07 07 VW POLO 1-4 S 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C CORNFLOWER BLUE 3000 MILES.....	£8495
06 56 VW POLO 1-4 S 3DR AUTO PAS AIR/C CORNFLOWER BLUE 3000MILES.....	£6995
05 55 VW POLO 1-4 S DR AUTO 3DR BLACK AIR/C SUNROOF 13000 MILES.....	£6495
04 54 VW LUPO 1-4 E DR AUTO PAS SILVER 3DR 27000 MILES.....	£4995
04 04 VW POLO 1-4 TWIST AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/ MET RED 18000 MILES.....	£5995
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05 05 KIA RIO 1-3 LE PLUS 5 DR AUTO PAS BERRY BLUE 8000 MILES.....	£3995
04 54 KIA MAGENTIS 2-0 LE AUTO PAS 4 DR BLACK 25000 MILES.....	£3995

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06 56 MONDEO 2-0 ZETEC ESTATE CAR AUTO PAS AIR BLACK 8000 MILES.....	£9995
04 54 MONDEO 2-0 ZETEC ESTATE CAR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 20000 MILES.....	£6995

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07 57 NEW ASTRA 16 DESIGN AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS SILVER 5000 MILES.....	£8495
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE PANACOTTA 6000 MILES.....	£6995
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR BLACK 9000 MILES.....	£6995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN 5DR AUTO SILVER LEATHER ALLOYS 24000 MILES.....	£6995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE STAR SILVER 6000 MILES.....	£5995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C MOONLAND 16000 MILES.....	£5995
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS ESTATE SILVER 11000 MILES.....	£6995
05 05 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5DR HATCH SILVER METALLIC 10000MLS.....	£4995
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS ESTATE BLACK 6000 MILES.....	£6995
05 05 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS ESTATE GREEN 13000 MILES.....	£5995
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07 07 MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 6000 MILES.....	£6995
06 56 NEW ZAFIRA 2-2 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C TURQUOISE 3000 MILES.....	£7995
05 55 MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 15000 MILES.....	£5995
05 05 MERIVA 1-6 ENJOY AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 7000 MILES.....	£5995
05 54 ZAFIRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS CD AIR/C DARK BLUE 12000 MILES.....	£5995
04 53 VECTRA 2-2 SXi AUTO PAS AIR/C 4 DR GREEN MET 27000 MILES.....	£4995
00 X ZAFIRA 1-8 COMFORT AUTO PAS GREEN 55000 MILES.....	£3695

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06 56 MEGANE DYNAMIC 2-0 CONVERTIBLE AUTO PAS 17000 MILES.....	£9995
06 56 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERTIBLE AUTO PAS 17000 MILES.....	£8995
06 06 RENAULT KANGOO 1-6 EXPRESSION BLUE PAS AUTO 4000 MILES.....	£5995
05 55 GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIC 1-6 AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 9000 MILES.....	£5995
05 55 SCENIC DYNAMIC 1-6 AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 7000 MILES.....	£6495
05 05 MEGANE 1-6 EXPRESSION ESTATE CAR AUTO PAS AIR BLUE 9000MLS.....	£5995
05 05 KANGOO 1-6 AUTHENTIQUE AUTO PAS MET SILVER 14000 MILES.....	£4995

MERCEDES BENZ

07 07 C180 KOMP AVANTGARDE SE 4 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 13000 MILES.....	£15995
06 56 C220 CDI AVANTGRDE DIESEL SE EST AUTO PAS BLUE 16000 MILES.....	£16995
06 56 NEW A CLASS 150 CLASSIC SE AUTO PAS 5DR BLUE 2000 MILES.....	£9995
06 56 A CLASS 160 CLASSIC SE DIESEL AUTO PAS 5DR GOLD 2000 MILES.....	£11995
06 06 C180 KOMPRESSOR CLASSIC AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 28000 MILES.....	£12995
06 06 C180 KOMPRESSOR CLASSIC AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 18000 MILES.....	£13995
05 55 C180 KOMP ELEGANCE SE AUTO PAS SILVER LEATHER 19000 MILES.....	£13995
05 05 NEW A CLASS 150 CLASSIC SE AUTO PAS 5DR GOLD 18000 MILES.....	£7995
05 05 C180 KOMPRESSOR ELEGANCE SE AUTO PAS BLUE 21000 MILES.....	£13995
05 05 MERC 270 CDI DIESEL CLK SILVER ALLOYS LEATHER 48000 MILES.....	£14995
03 53 Vaneo 1-6 FAMILY ESTATE AUTO PAS RED AIR/C 29000 MILES.....	£5995
02 52 MERC 240 CLK AVANTGARDE AUTO PAS ALLOYS SILVER 8000MILES.....	£10995

FIAT

05 05 PUNTO DYNAMIC SPEEDGEAR AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR BLUE 9000 MILES.....	£4995
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PEUGEOT

07 07 PEUGEOT 307 S AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK METALLIC 6000 MILES.....	£7995
07 56 PEUGEOT 107 5DR URBAN AUTO PAS BLACK 12000 MILES.....	£6995
06 56 PEUGEOT 307 S AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER METALLIC 9000 MILES.....	£7495
06 56 PEUGEOT 206 SW 1-6 VERVE AUTO PAS ESTATE CAR SILVER 1000 MILES.....	£6995
06 06 PEUGEOT 307 S AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE METALLIC 11000 MILES.....	£6995
06 06 PEUGEOT 206 SPORT 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C AGEAN BLUE 7000 MILES.....	£7995
05 55 PEUGEOT 206 1-4 S 5 3R AUTO PAS AIR/C MOONSTUD 10000 MILES.....	£6495
05 05 206 SW ESTATE QUICKSILVER AUTO PAS AIRC GREY MET 15000MILES.....	£6495
05 05 PEUGEOT 307 SE ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C BRONZE 16000 MILES.....	£6995
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MANUAL CARS

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05 05 NEW FOCUS 1-6 GHIA 5 DR 5 SPD PAS ALLOYS AIR/C BLUE 7000 MILES.....	£6995
05 05 CITROEN C4 1-6 SX MANUAL 5 DR PAS AIR SILVER 26000 MILES.....	£4995
03 52 CITROEN C3 SX DIESEL 1-4 5SPEED WICKED RED 52000 MILES.....	£3995
02 52 FORD FUSION 2 5 SPD MANUAL SILVER SUNROOF 55000 MILES.....	£3695
01 51 VW GOLF 1-6 S 5 DR SPEED MANUAL SILVER SUNROOF 55000 MILES.....	£3695
Y 01 ASTRA 1-6 CLUB 5DR 5 SPEED MANUAL AIR/C BLUE 46000 MILES.....	£2495

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06 06 C180 KOMPRESSOR CLASSIC AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 18000 MILES.....	£13995
08 57 TOYOTA AURIS TR 5DR AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS SILVER 5000 MILES.....	£10995
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ESTATE METRO BLUE 2000 MILES.....	£9995
07 57 VECTRA LIFE DIESEL AUTO 150BHP 5 DR PAS AIR/C 2000 MILES.....	£9995
07 57 CHEVROLET TACUMA 2-0 CDX AUTO PAS AIR MET BLUE 4000 MILES.....	£5495
07 57 FIESTA 1-6 STYLE CLIMATE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C 6000 MILES.....	£7995
07 07 CHEVROLET KALOS 1-4 SX AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 3000 MILES.....	£5995
07 07 DAIHATSU SIRION 1-3 SE AUTO PAS AIR/C MET GOLD 6000 MILES.....	£6995
07 07 PEUGEOT 206 1-6 LOOK 5 DR AUTO PAS ONYX BLACK 2000 MILES.....	£7995
06 56 CHEVROLET MATIZ-80 SE AUTO PAS BLUE METALLIC 600 MILES.....	£4995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 LX 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 16000 MILES.....	£7495
06 56 VW POLO 1-4 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C CORNFLOWER BLUE 7000MILES.....	£6995
06 06 TIGRA 14 EXCLUSIVE CONV SSPD LEATHER BLACK 14000MILES.....	£9495
05 55 NISSAN MICRA 1-4 SVE 3DR AUTO PAS AIR/C COOL BLUE 12000MILES.....	£5495
05 55 NISSAN ALMERA 1-8 SE AUTO PAS 5DR CAYMAN BLUE 16000 MILES.....	£4995
05 55 CHEVROLET KALOS 1-4 SX AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 10000 MILES.....	£4495
05 05 PEUGEOT 206 1-4 S S DR AUTO PAS AIR/C DIABLO RED 9000 MILES.....	£5495
05 05 NEW A CLASS 150 CLASSIC SE AUTO PAS 5DR GREEN 19000 MILES.....	£7995
05 05 LAGUNA 2-0 DYNAMIC AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 30000 MILES.....	£5995
05 54 KIA PICANTO 1-1 LX 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 18000 MILES.....	£3695
03 03 ROVER 25i LX 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/BLACK LEATHER TRIM ALLOYS 30000M.....	£3495

USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

BMW 3-SERIES



REGARDED as the number one compact executive model for driving pleasure and sheer swank value, the 3-Series' crown is threatened by the numbers available plus new pressure from the Audi and Merc and other plausible rivals. There is plenty of choice, from hatchbacks, stylish estates and barnstorming M3 supercars as well as four and two-door stalwarts. Top engines are the classic BMW straight-six petrol and some smooth diesels – especially the 320d.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

AUDI A4



AUDI'S ambitious compact executive challenger used to be seen as an also-ran hampered by front-wheel drive rather than the rear-wheel drive used by the rival BMW and Merc. However, the overall rise of Audi and the cachet of its Quattro all-wheel drive versions has turned the A4 into the 'thinking man's choice', though the numbers in circulation may weaken prices. It perennially under-achieves on the driving front, but lacks nothing in prestige.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

MERCEDES C-CLASS



MERCEDES-BENZ has put down a marker with the latest C-Class, creating a robust car almost as good to drive as the BMW and arguably better looking than either of its fiercest rivals. Combined with the most prestigious badge of the German trio, this makes the current 'C' sought-after on the nearly new market, though previous generation cars are less so thanks to a period of poorer build and reliability. This means there are bargains diesel estates being the pick.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★



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AGILA

08 08 New Agila 1.2 Design 5dr Moroccan Blue£6,995

CORSA

08 Corsa 1.6 VXR 3dr Under 11,000 miles Arden Blue£11,650
07 56 Corsa 1.2 Club, 3dr, 1 owner, Under 12,000 miles, Metro Blue£6,995
06 56 Corsa 1.2 Club 5dr, 1 owner, Under 18,000 miles, Air Blue£6,995
05 Corsa 1.4 Design Auto 5dr, Star Silver£5,250
04 04 Corsa 1.2 Energy 3 dr, Air Con, 1 owner, under 22,000 miles, Black£4,995
05 55 Corsa 1.2 Twinport SXi 5dr, 1 owner, Pommegranite Red£4,995

TIGRA

58 Tigra 1.4 Rouge, Under 3,000 miles, Black Sapphire£12,995
06 06 Tigra 1.4 Exclusive A/C, Under 18,000 miles, Antigua£8,650

MERIVA

08 Meriva 1.4 Active 5 dr, A/C, Alloys, ABS, Ex Demonstrator, Metro Blue£9,495
06 06 Meriva 1.3CDTI Active 5dr A/C, 1 Owner vehicle, Under 28k miles, Star Silver£6,995
04 54 Meriva 1.7CDTI Enjoy 5 dr, Under 28,000 miles, Silver Lightning£5,450

ASTRA

58 Astra 1.7CDTI Life 5 dr A/C, Under 3,000 miles, Black Sapphire£12,650
08 08 Astra 1.8 Life 5 dr A/C, Automatic, Under 5,000 miles, Star Silver£9,995
08 08 Astra 1.6 SXi 5 dr Easytronic, Tiptronic auto / manual box, Metro Blue£9,650
08 08 Astra 1.6 Club 5 dr Estate, A/C, Under 6,000 miles, Ultra Blue£9,650
08 08 Astra 1.6 Energy 5dr, Ex Demonstrator, Ultra Blue£8,650
07 57 Astra 1.6 Energy 5dr, Ex Demonstrator, Silver Lightning£7,450
07 57 Astra 1.6 Energy 5dr, Ex Demonstrator, Silver Lightning£7,450
07 57 Astra 1.6 Energy 5dr, Ex Demonstrator, Ultra Blue£7,450
07 57 Astra 1.6 Energy 5dr, Ex Demonstrator, Ultra Blue£7,450
05 55 Astra 1.7CDTI SXi 5 dr A/C, 1 owner, Alloy Wheels, Metro Blue£6,450
05 05 Astra 1.6 Breeze 5 dr A/C, Alloy Wheels, Under 40K miles, Silver Lightning£5,650
04 54 Astra 1.6 Design 5 dr, A/C, Easytronic, Tiptronic, Half Leather, E/Pack, Papyrus£5,295

ASTRA SPORT HATCH

08 08 Astra 2.0 VXR Turbo 3dr, Black Sapphire£14,950
08 58 Astra 1.8 SRI 3dr Exterior Pack, Under 5,000 miles, Bluetooth, Moonland£13,650
08 08 Astra 1.9CDTI SRI 150 XP 3dr, Exterior Pack, Ultra Blue£11,995
07 57 Astra 1.6SRI Sport Hatch, Panoramic Roof, Ex Demo, Metro Blue£8,995

ASTRA TWIN TOP

06 06 Astra 1.9CDTI 150 Design A/C, A/F/Lighting, Full Leather, 18"s, Air Blue£11,250
07 07 Astra Twinport 1.8 Sport, A/C, Plus Pack, 17" alloys, Under 10k, Pannacotta£10,995

ZAFIRA

08 08 Zafira 1.9CDTI 120 Elite 5dr, E/Pack, Full Leather, Black Sapphire£12,850
08 08 Zafira 1.9CDTI 120 SRI 5dr, Under 7,000 miles, Automatic, Star Silver£10,950
07 57 Zafira 1.9CDTI 120 Design 5dr, Under 10,000 miles, Automatic, Black Sapphire£10,650
07 57 Zafira 1.9CDTI 120 Design 5dr, Under 14,000 miles, Silver Lightning£9,850
07 57 Zafira 1.9CDTI 120 Design 5dr, Under 14,000 miles, Star Silver£9,850
07 57 Zafira 1.9CDTI 120 SRI 5dr, Under 16,000 miles, Star Silver£9,650
07 57 Zafira 1.9CDTI 120 Club 5dr A/C, 1 Owner, Under 7,000 miles, Moonland£8,950

07 57 Zafira 1.9CDTI 120 Club5dr Auto, 1 Owner, Under 16,000 miles, Choice of Two£8,750
07 07 Zafira 1.8 Design 5dr, 1/2 Leather, 1 Owner, Under 10,000 miles, Moonland£9,950
07 57 Zafira 1.8 Club 5 dr A/C, 1 Owner, Under 17,000 miles, Choice of Three£8,450
07 57 Zafira 1.6 Life A/C 5dr, 1 Owner, Under 15,000 miles, Black Sapphire£7,950
07 57 Zafira 1.6 Life A/C 5dr, 1 Owner, Under 15,000 miles, Metro Blue£7,950

VECTRA

09 NEW Vectra 1.9CDTI (120) Exclusive 5dr, Brand New, Only one left, Black SappNew List £16,931 £11,495 Save £5,436
08 58 Vectra 1.8 Exclusive 5dr, Under 3,000 miles, Star Silver£9,995
07 57 Vectra 1.9CDTI 120 Exclusive 5dr, Under 8,000 miles, Black Sapphire£8,995
07 57 Vectra 1.8VVTI Exclusive 5dr, Under 4,000 miles, Black Sapphire£7,995
06 06 Vectra 1.8 Exclusive 5dr, A/C, Cruise, Alloys, ABS, Black Sapphire£6,495
04 04 Vectra 2.2 Design 5dr, 1/2 Leather, Automatic, Under 49,000 miles, Star Silver£5,650
04 04 Vectra 2.2 Design 5dr, 1/2 Leather, Automatic, Under 46,000 miles, Ultra Blue£5,650

ANTARA

09 NEW Antara 2.0 SE 5dr Auto Brand New ,F & R Park Assist, TungstenNew List £27,542 £19,995 Save £7,547
08 08 Antara 2.0CDTI SE 5dr Auto, Star Silver£19,650
08 08 Antara 2.0CDTI S Auto, Under 11,000 miles, Star Silver£13,995

AUTOMATICS

09 NEW Antara 2.0 SE 5dr Auto, Brand New, F & R Park Assist, TungstenNew List £27,542 £19,995 Save £7,547
08 08 Antara 2.0 SE 5dr Auto, Star Silver£19,650
08 08 Antara 2.0CDTI S Auto, Under 11,000 miles, Star Silver£13,995
04 04 Vectra 2.2 Design 5dr, 1/2 Leather, Automatic, Under 49,000 miles, Star Silver£5,650
04 04 Vectra 2.2 Design 5dr, 1/2 Leather, Automatic, Under 46,000 miles, Ultra Blue£5,650
07 57 Zafira 1.9CDTI 120 SRI 5dr, Under 7,000 miles, Automatic, Star Silver£10,950
07 57 Zafira 1.9CDTI 120 Design 5dr, Under 10,000 miles, Automatic, Black Sapphire£10,650

07 57 Zafira 1.9CDTI 120 Club5dr Auto, 1 Owner, Under 16,000 miles, Choice of Two£8,750
08 08 Astra 1.8 Life 5 dr A/C, Automatic, Under 5,000 miles, Star Silver£9,995
08 08 Astra 1.6 SXi 5 dr Easytronic, Tiptronic auto / manual box, Metro Blue£9,650
05 05 Corsa 1.4 Design Auto 5 dr, Star Silver£5,250

DEMONSTRATORS

09 NEW Antara 2.0 SE 5dr Auto, Brand New, TungstenNew List £27,542 £19,995 Save £7,547
08 08 Antara 2.0 SE 5dr Auto, Star Silver£19,650
08 08 Antara 2.0CDTI S Auto, Under 11,000 miles, Star Silver£13,995
08 58 Vectra 1.8 Exclusive 5dr, Under 3,000 miles, Star Silver New List£16,295
08 08 Zafira 1.9CDTI 120 Elite 5dr, E/Pack, Full Leather, Black Sapphire£12,850
08 08 Meriva 1.4 Active 5 dr, A/C, Alloys, ABS, Ex Demonstrator, Metro Blue£9,495
08 08 Astra 2.0 VXR Turbo 3dr, Black Sapphire£14,950

08 58 Astra 1.8 SRI 3dr Exterior Pack, Under 5,000 miles, Bluetooth, Moonland£13,650
08 58 Astra 1.7CDTI Life 5 dr A/C, Under 3,000 miles, Black Sapphire£12,650
08 08 Astra 1.9CDTI SRI 150 XP 3dr, Exterior Pack, Ultra Blue£11,995
08 08 Astra 1.8 Life 5 dr A/C, Automatic, Under 5,000 miles, Star Silver£9,995
08 08 Astra 1.6 SXi 5 dr Easytronic, Tiptronic auto / manual box, Metro Blue£9,650
08 08 Astra 1.6 Club 5 dr Estate, A/C, Under 6,000 miles, Ultra Blue£9,650
08 08 Astra 1.6 Energy 5 dr, Under 3,000 miles, Ultra Blue£8,650
08 58 Tigra 1.4 Rouge, Under 3,000 miles, Black Sapphire£12,995
08 08 Corsa 1.6 VXR Turbo 3dr, Arden Blue£11,650

OTHER MAKES

03 53 Audi A2 1.6 FSi SE 5 dr A/C, Under 30,000 miles, Light Blue Metallic£6,650
06 56 Fiesta 1.25 Freedom 3 dr, 1 Owner, Under 9,000 miles, Silver£5,995
07 07 Fiesta 1.25 Silver 3 dr, 1 Owner, Under 11,000 miles, Ocean Blue£5,995
05 55 Citroen C4 1.6Hdi SX 5 dr, 1 Owner, Under 36,000 miles, Black£5,995
05 05 Fiesta 1.4 Flame 3 dr, Under 20,000 miles, Metallic Blue£5,450

COMMERCIAL PLUS VAT

09 NEW Movano 2.5CDTI 120ps LWB SR, LUTON BODY VAN, IN STOCK, Casablanca White£19,995
08 57 Movano 2.5CDTI 100ps MWB, Maxi Roof, Ex Demo, Under 2k miles, Arctic White£10,950
08 58 Vivaro 2.0CDTI 115 LWB 2.9t Pre Registered, Delivery Mileage, Star Silver£12,450
08 58 Vivaro 2.0CDTI 115 LWB 2.9t Pre Registered, Delivery Mileage, Casablanca White£11,950

08 58 Vivaro 2.0CDTI 115 Sportive SWB SR Pre Registered, Delivery Mileage, Ocean Green£12,450
08 58 Vivaro 2.0CDTI 115 Sportive SWB SR Pre Registered, Delivery Mileage, Midnight Black£12,450
08 08 Vivaro 2.0CDTI 115 SWB 2.9t Van, Ex Parts Delivery, E/Pack, White£8,995
08 08 Astravan 1.9 Sportive Auto, A/C, Alloys, Demonstrator, Metro Blue£9,995
07 57 Astravan 1.7CDTI Club, 6 Speed, Delivery Mileage, White£7,995
08 08 Astravan 1.7CDTI Club, 6 Speed, Ex Parts Delivery , White£7,450
08 58 Combo 1.3CDTI 2000 Crew Van Pre Registered, Delivery Mileage, Glacier White£8,450

CHEVROLET

08 08 Lacetti 1.6 SX 5 dr Estate, 1 Owner, Under 6,000 miles, Pearl Black£6,950
07 57 Matiz 1.0 SE Plus 5 dr A/C, 1 Owner, Under 13,000 miles, Poly Silver£4,650

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Mazdas

	OUR PRICE	WAS NEW	YOU SAVE
08 Reg Mazda Mazda2 1.3 TS 5dr	£7790	£8,763	£973
08 Reg Mazda Mazda3 1.4 S 5dr	£7390	£11,568	£4,178
08 Reg Mazda Mazda3 2.0d Sport 5dr	£12,990	£16,624	£3,634
58 Reg Mazda Mazda5 2.0d Sport 5dr	£14,290	£16,624	£2,334
07 Reg Mazda Mazda6 2.0 TS2 [147] 5dr	£8,590	£17,930	£9,340
57 Reg Mazda Cx-7 2.3T 5dr	£15,190	£24,448	£9,258
08 Reg Mazda Mx-5 1.8i [Option Pack]	£11,849	£16,203	£4,354
08 Reg Mazda Mx-5 2.0i [Option Pack]	£12,499	£17,181	£4,682

Peugeots

	OUR PRICE	WAS NEW	YOU SAVE
07 Reg Peugeot 207 1.6 VTi SE [120] 5dr	£8,490	£12,622	£4,132
08 Reg Peugeot 207 1.6 HDi 90 S 5dr	£9,990	£13,039	£3,049
58 Reg Peugeot 207 1.4 HDi S 5dr [AC]	£9,290	£12,451	£3,161
08 Reg Peugeot 308 1.6 VTi Sport 5dr	£10,490	£15,390	£4,900
57 Reg Peugeot 308 1.6 HDi 110 Sport	£10,990	£17,445	£6,455
08 Reg Peugeot 308 1.6 HDi 110 SE 5dr	£12,490	£18,423	£5,933
08 Reg Peugeot 308 2.0 HDi GT 5dr	£13,590	£20,186	£6,596
57 Reg Peugeot 407 2.0 HDi 136 SE 5dr	£10,190	£18,455	£8,265

Renaults

	OUR PRICE	WAS NEW	YOU SAVE
58 Reg Renault Twingo 1.2 TCE GT 3dr	£6,999	£10,157	£3,158
58 Reg Renault Clio 1.2 TCE Expression 3dr	£7,720	£11,495	£3,775
07 Reg Renault Clio 1.4 16V Dynamique	£7,290	£10,437	£3,147
08 Reg Renault Grand Modus 1.6 Dynamique Auto	£8,090	£13,158	£5,068
08 Reg Renault Megane 2.0 Renaultsport 225 3dr	£12,890	£19,195	£6,305
08 Reg Renault Laguna 2.0 dCi Dynamique 5dr	£12,490	£17,229	£4,739
08 Reg Renault Laguna 2.0 dCi 180 GT 5dr	£14,290	£21,438	£7,148
58 Reg Renault Koleos 2.0 dCi Privilege 5dr	£20,390	£23,367	£2,977

Other Makes

	OUR PRICE	WAS NEW	YOU SAVE
07 Reg Citroen C3 1.6 HDi 16V Exclusive 5dr	£6,799	£13,032	£6,233
07 Reg Ford Fiesta 1.25 Style 3dr (Climate)	£5,999	£9,622	£3,623
57 Reg Ford Mondeo 1.8 TDCi Edge 5dr	£9,750	£16,795	£7,045
07 Reg Ford C-max 1.6TDCi Zetec 110 5dr	£8,999	£17,012	£8,013
07 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 1.2i 16V Life 3dr	£6,599	£9,497	£2,898
07 Reg Vauxhall Vectra 1.8i VVT Exclusiv 5dr	£6,990	£14,897	£7,907
57 Reg Vauxhall Zafira 1.9 CDTi Design	£11,999	£21,705	£9,706



58 Reg Mazda Mazda2 1.4D TS2 3dr

Was New £11213

Our Price **£9190**

Saving against new £2023



08 Reg Mazda MX-5 2.0i Sport 2dr

Was New £18650

Our Price **£12999**

Saving against new £5651



08 Reg Peugeot 407 1.6 HDi 110 S 4dr

Was New £18220

Our Price **£8490**

Saving against new £9730



58 Reg Renault Clio 1.5 dCi 86 Dynamique 3dr

Was New £12201

Our Price **£8990**

Saving against new £3211



57 Reg Renault Laguna 2.0 dCi 150 Dynamique Auto

Was New £19970

Our Price **£12690**

Saving against new £7280



57 Reg Ford Focus 1.8 Style 5dr

Was New £14805

Our Price **£8790**

Saving against new £6015



08 Reg Mazda Mazda3 2.0 Sport 4dr

Was New £16624

Our Price **£11990**

Saving against new £4634



57 Reg Peugeot 308 1.6 HDi 90 S 5dr (A/C)

Was New £14800

Our Price **£9490**

Saving against new £5310



57 Reg Peugeot 4007 2.2 HDi GT 5dr

Was New £25864

Our Price **£15990**

Saving against new £9874



57 Reg Renault Megane 1.5 dCi 86 Extreme 5dr

Was New £13230

Our Price **£6990**

Saving against new £6240



57 Reg Fiat Grande Punto 1.2 Active 5dr

Was New £9050

Our Price **£5490**

Saving against new £3560



07 Reg Vauxhall Vectra 1.8i VVT Life 5dr

Was New £16300

Our Price **£7290**

Saving against new £9010

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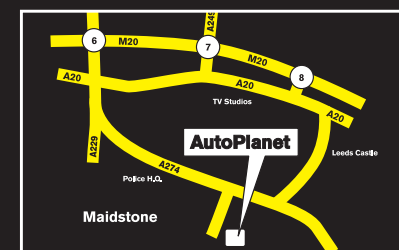
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WOMEN seeking men

YOUNG BUT NOT FOOLISH
Happy-go-lucky 19yr old brunette, blue eyes, slim, loves meeting new people, WLTm a down-to-earth male for friendship to start but hopefully something more. Box 445285 **1**

TAKE ME FOR WHO I AM
Hi I'm Sam, 22, looking for a relationship. I'm blonde, have brown eyes, love cosy nights in and cinema, looking to share a relationship. Box 447871 **1**

SINGLE DAD WANTED
Single mum, 23, nice and curvy, 5ft6, blonde, blue eyes, likes shopping, cinema and animals, WLTm an honest and trustworthy male, 28-38. Box 446993 **1**

SOCCER FAN SEEKS SOULMATE
Fun to be with blonde female, 25, 5ft2, loves football(!), going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man to be my soulmate. Box 446994 **1**

SOUND GOOD?
Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and non-smoking, enjoy cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447595 **1**

CLOSE ENCOUNTER
Loving, caring, tactile female, 36, 5'8", blonde hair, blue-eyes, N/S, GSOH, likes cinema, bowling, country pubs, nights in/out, seeks male for friendship and LTR. Box 827619 **1**

FRIENDSHIP, MAYBE MORE
Social, genuine, honest, single mum, 36, 5ft6, I've got hazel eyes and dark hair and enjoy the cinema, meals out. WLTm sincere, attractive, genuine male. Box 446840 **1**

ON THE LOOKOUT FOR LOVE
37yr old female, 2 kids, slim, brown hair and eyes, 5ft2, looking for caring, loving, honest and trusting male to be my someone special. Box 446552 **1**

TRY ME
Ashford-based woman looking for an honest, friendly, caring and loving man. I have 2 kids and enjoy the usual things in life. Box 446985 **1**

HISTORIC MEETING?
Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693 **1**

DON'T PASS ME BY
Cute, single mum of 4, 38yrs old, Kent based, into most things, looking for friendship or possibly romance. Box 897983 **1**

FANCY A DRINK?
Hi I'm Judith, 40, small, blonde hair, blue eyes, love the sea and water-sports, cinema, animals; WLTm fun-loving guy for friendship and see what happens. Box 448107 **1**

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE
Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, WLTm a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551 **1**

NO TIES
Bored, professional Tunbridge Wells Asian lady, 40, WLTm slim, solvent, professional white male, 40-50, for company, fun, love, laughter. Box 443573 **1**

SOULMATE SOUGHT
African descent female, 45, 5ft6, full figure, radiant, happy, attractive, loves music, theatre, travel, the arts, WLTm gentleman who is cultured, kind, solvent and fun. Box 443998 **1**

MAKE ME LAUGH!
Fun extrovert person, 45, likes cinema, going out, meals, socialising, 5ft7, dark brown hair/eyes, curvy, seeking nice guy to start off as friends with. Box 442905 **1**

COULD IT BE YOU?
Hi I'm 44, slim, 5ft8, a redhead, love nights out, socialising, looking for friendship initially and hopefully more later on. Box 889800 **1**

IT'S WHAT YOU MAKE OF IT!
44yr old female, blonde hair, 5ft5, slim, easygoing, enjoy many things in life, looking for someone similar out there to enjoy life with! Box 436810 **1**

SINCERITY
Hi I'm Nigerian, petite, blonde, green eyes, 45, looking for my Mr Right to have fun with and enjoy lasting relationship with. Box 447986 **1**

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?
Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366 **1**

HELP ME OPEN UP
Easygoing lady, 45, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, WLTm male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585 **1**

HAPPY GO LUCKY
Sincere, happy woman, with GSOH. I'm 5ft6, with short brown hair, brown eyes. I have lots of interests and WLTm similar guy. Box 895019 **1**

LISA THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE?
Down-to-earth girl, 48, 6ft1, blonde, medium build, like reading, walking, theatre, cinema, WLTm similar family-orientated man for lasting love. Box 448275 **1**

A NEW DAY BEGINS
Bubbly female, 48, GSOH, slim, non-smoker, enjoys outdoors, cooking, home-life, cosy nights in, eating out, cinema looking for tall, sincere gentleman, for friendship/relationship. Box 448032 **1**

ALL THAT I NEED
Young-looking, slim, attractive female, 48, fun-loving, outgoing, N/S, GSOH, love music, holidays, going out, staying in, seeks similar man, 42-50. Aylesford. Box 428833 **1**

LAUGHTER, THE BEST MEDICINE
Help me write my stand-up comedy routine! I'm 49, you'll need to have me laugh out loud and understand observational comedy to make the grade. Box 892640 **1**

RECIPE FOR ROMANCE
I'm a single mum of 42, catering manager, looking to find someone to have fun, laughs and enjoy life with. I like walks, cycling, socialising. Box 883204 **1**

BLONDE AMBITION
Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 38, 5'6", likes cars, reading, pubs, nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614 **1**

ANIMAL LOVER?
Nurse, 37yrs, 2 kids, 5ft8, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes the gym, cooking, swimming, salsa dancing, looking for kind, caring, loyal male Box 431557 **1**

SCOTTISH LASS
Maggie here, I'm a Scottish girl, 39, 5ft2, been living down South for nearly 16 years. I like pubs, cinema, wine bars. Box 883010 **1**

CAN YOU HANDLE ME?
Bubbly upbeat slim blonde girl, 40, independent but looking for that someone special to have a good time with. Box 448251 **1**

PASSION FOR YOU
Medium build woman, 41, 5ft2, kind, caring, loving and tactile, GSOH, looking to meet a nice man for a LTR. Box 446890 **1**

GENUINE REPLIES ONLY
Bubbly female, 44, brunette, N/S, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955 **1**

HERE WE ARE
Easygoing female, 45, self-employed hairdresser, likes theatre, restaurants, socialising, sofa cuddles, seeking loyal, loving, caring male for good times and more. Box 444672 **1**

SOULMATE SOUGHT
African descent female, 45, 5ft6, full figure, radiant, happy, attractive, loves music, theatre, travel, the arts, WLTm gentleman who is cultured, kind, solvent and fun. Box 443998 **1**

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Fun extrovert person, 45, likes cinema, going out, meals, socialising, 5ft7, dark brown hair/eyes, curvy, seeking nice guy to start off as friends with. Box 442905 **1**

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44yr old female, blonde hair, 5ft5, slim, easygoing, enjoy many things in life, looking for someone similar out there to enjoy life with! Box 436810 **1**

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Sincere, happy woman, with GSOH. I'm 5ft6, with short brown hair, brown eyes. I have lots of interests and WLTm similar guy. Box 895019 **1**

LISA THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE?
Down-to-earth girl, 48, 6ft1, blonde, medium build, like reading, walking, theatre, cinema, WLTm similar family-orientated man for lasting love. Box 448275 **1**

A NEW DAY BEGINS
Bubbly female, 48, GSOH, slim, non-smoker, enjoys outdoors, cooking, home-life, cosy nights in, eating out, cinema looking for tall, sincere gentleman, for friendship/relationship. Box 448032 **1**

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Young-looking, slim, attractive female, 48, fun-loving, outgoing, N/S, GSOH, love music, holidays, going out, staying in, seeks similar man, 42-50. Aylesford. Box 428833 **1**

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I'm a single mum of 42, catering manager, looking to find someone to have fun, laughs and enjoy life with. I like walks, cycling, socialising. Box 883204 **1**

BLONDE AMBITION
Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 38, 5'6", likes cars, reading, pubs, nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614 **1**

ANIMAL LOVER?
Nurse, 37yrs, 2 kids, 5ft8, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes the gym, cooking, swimming, salsa dancing, looking for kind, caring, loyal male Box 431557 **1**

SCOTTISH LASS
Maggie here, I'm a Scottish girl, 39, 5ft2, been living down South for nearly 16 years. I like pubs, cinema, wine bars. Box 883010 **1**

CAN YOU HANDLE ME?
Bubbly upbeat slim blonde girl, 40, independent but looking for that someone special to have a good time with. Box 448251 **1**

PASSION FOR YOU
Medium build woman, 41, 5ft2, kind, caring, loving and tactile, GSOH, looking to meet a nice man for a LTR. Box 446890 **1**

REPLY to an ad, call:
0905 211 0651
(Calls cost £1.20/min; contact your service provider for details)

REPLY by Text

You can choose to text the member's 6-digit box number followed by a space, then your message (max of 160 characters) and send to **82250** e.g. 654321 Hi my name is... Standard network rates apply to send messages. Successfully forwarded messages cost £1.50 per message.

JUST IMAGINE
Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTm genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562 **1**

WHERE R U?
Cheerful, honest, popular blonde, 50yrs old, 5ft2, slim, looking to find an honest, loyal man. I can please call again/leave contact details. Box 887347 **1**

CALL ME!
Recently separated single mum, 51, genuine and loving, GSOH, loves animals and stocky men, looking for a special someone to share fun nights in/out with. Box 448354 **1**

FUNNY GIRL
Petite, blonde female, 50, GSOH, likes music, books, films, cooking, looking for romantic soulmate, 40-55, for TLC. Kent. Box 835181 **1**

CARING & PROFESSIONAL
Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings. Box 417100 **1**

YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU CALL...
Young looking, hard working 53yr old living in East Sussex. I am a happy, caring person with a good sense of humor. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 883410 **1**

SEEING THROUGH THE SHYNESS
Attractive female, 53, intelligent, kind, funny, non-smoker, WLTm nice, kind, normal male, 50-60, for theatre, laughs and more. Box 446383 **1**

QUICK, easy way to view a member's photo!
Look for the **1** symbol. Just enter the six-digit Box number, followed by a space, then PHOTO and send to 82250

Your phone must be WAP-enabled £1.50 per photo
Add a photo of yourself
Register your number with us & send by MMS to 07746 738 788. Enter P2P as subject.

MMS - standard network charges apply.

ARE YOU MY BOND... JAMES BOND?
Kind, caring, attractive lady, young 53, 5'7", slim, brown hair/eyes, N/S, GSOH, enjoys walking, reading, travel, socialising, seeking tall, considerate, honest, solvent gent for friendship. LTR. Box 446079 **1**

ENJOY LIFE
55yr old woman, brown hair/blue eyes, 5ft2, I'm divorced with a grown up family. I enjoy reading, travel, cinema, music, eating out. WLTm caring, genuine man. Box 446798 **1**

PISCES OR CAPRICORN?
Star-struck lady, 59, 5ft3, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes swimming, holidays, the sea, WLTm tall man with good heart for love. Box 448240 **1**

CUDDLE UP
Medium-build lady, 62, 5ft3, likes dancing, walking, eating in/out, WLTm a caring and considerate male to stay in with on a cold winter's evening. Box 445123 **1**

LOVING AND GENUINE
Female, early 60s, tall, slim, modern, young thinking & very adaptable to people, own house, loves animals, walking & eating out. Box 440502 **1**

SINCERELY YOURS
Fit young-at-heart very active 69yr old widow, great SOH, lots of TLC to give to the right person. Enjoys walks and more. Box 448129 **1**

Women seeking women

FRIENDSHIP, MAYBE MORE
Curvy female, 32, seeks like-minded woman, for friendship, hopefully more. Single mum, work part time. Box 885142 **1**

FRIENDSHIP, FULLY MORE
Feminine woman, easygoing, caring, 45, long brown hair, blue eyes, I love music, eating out, reading/writing, drives, weekends away. WLTm boyish female. Box 448248 **1**

ATTRACTIVE, BUBBLY LADY
52yrs, 5ft6, blonde, size 12 enjoys good food/wine, theatre, countryside, parks and football, seeking similar slim female for honest relationship. Box 441413 **1**

IS IT ME YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?
Green-eyed girl, 55, 5ft5, size 14-16, animal-loving Sagittarius, seeking a butch woman, 40-65, for companionship and comfort. Box 447712 **1**

WARN-HEARTED
Single friendly girl, genuine, honest, very affectionate, 43, 6ft4, slim, short brown hair, green eyes, WLTm affectionate lady for genuine relationship. Box 446879 **1**

ROB THE BUILDER
Medium build lad, 43, olive skin, looking for a genuine lady to spend the good/bad times with. Box 447658 **1**

BIKER BOY
Single dad, 43, slim, long dark hair, beard, tattooed, looking for a woman who likes doing mad things and having a laugh. Box 448420 **1**

A FINE ROMANCE
Easygoing, attractive, affectionate man, 44, 5ft11, likes cinema, cosy nights in, music, seeking attractive lady for friendship/more. Box 429272 **1**

DAD'S THE WORD
Lonely single male, 44, 6ft2, fair hair, great SOH, happy but looking for a lady, 30-60, to have fun with, hopefully something else. Box 446452 **1**

I'LL MAKE YOU LAUGH
Very romantic, caring and loyal male, 44, slim, blue eyes, fair hair, great SOH, seeks female, 24-48, with similar interests for hopeful LTR. Hastings. Box 446120 **1**

BUILD ME UP BUTTERCUP
Builder by trade, I'm a 44yr old guy, I like cars, TV, watching football, going out, cosy nights in, cycling, walks. You? Box 448205 **1**

CUDDLE UP
Single dad, 46, happy in life, would be nice to share it with lovely woman. I like animals, cooking, music. All replies answered. Box 448281 **1**

WINE AND DINE
Hi there, I'm a 46yr old guy, bubbly with a GSOH. I like eating in/out, cuddling up on the sofa. Slim build, green/blue eyes. Box 448116 **1**

GENUINE & SINCERE
Hard-working male, 47, slim, not bad-looking 5ft8, into most things... sports, pubs/meals, socialising, walks, travel... WLTm slim, honest, loyal, attractive girl with great SOH, for hopeful LTR. Box 444244 **1**

ROMANCE! PASSION!
Honest male, 47, likes cinema, walks, holidays, restaurants, seeking romance, love, the woman of my dreams for relationship and more. Box 448253 **1**

HEALTHY LOVE...
Hard working guy, 47, WLTm a young lady to enjoy and make the most of life with, finding love along the way. Box 448305 **1**

SOMETHING TO HOLD ON TO
Fun loving, professional man, 48, likes walking, pubs and interesting conversation amongst other things, seeks affectionate, attractive female for fun and friendship. Box 448298 **1**

ROMANCE, PASSION, LAUGHTER
Slim male, 48, 6ft, dark brown hair, eyes, attractive, animated, confident, eclectic, seeking soulmate 43-53 forever. Box 446553 **1**

PUT THAT SPARK BACK INTO MY LIFE
Virgo male, 40, 5ft7, stocky build, kind, loving, fine guy, enjoys the cinema, sun, blue when it is cold, WLTm like-minded person to be my girl. Box 446212 **1**

WHO KNOWS
Hi, I'm a down-2-earth male, 40, 5'7", medium build, green eyes, loves outdoors, sports, beach walks etc, WLTm an out-going female for good times. Box 895004 **1**

EVER CHANGING COLOURS
lan, 40, 5'7", medium build, green eyes, turning blue when it is cold, loves live sports and golf, seeking an active female, 30-39. Box 899003 **1**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
Good guy, 42, 5ft11, medium build, short dark hair, brown eyes, various interests; seeking somebody for fun, romance, cosy nights in and more. Box 448428 **1**

ASHFORD MAN
Attractive guy, nice to be with, laid back, I'm 41, 5ft9, medium/stocky build, brown hair. Own business and home, enjoys walks, pubs, wine, restaurants, cinema. Box 437225 **1**

BROWSE and listen line:
0906 753 3093
(Calls cost 75p/min; contact your service provider for details)

HELP required with service?
0871 220 9205

Live assistance, 2pm-5.30pm, Mon to Fri | Email: louise@g8wave.co.uk (Calls cost 10p/min; contact your service provider for details)



HOLD HANDS
Hi I'm Bill, 48, 5ft7, well built, short brown hair, brown eyes, loyal, loving, caring, looking for a similar lady to cuddle... Box 447902 **1**

MOVING FORWARDS
Divorced devoted dad, 53, 6ft, brown hair, medium build, loves sports and live music, seeking female 45-55 for hopeful lasting relationship. Box 448390 **1**

PLANT THE SEEDS
Single friendly guy, genuine, honest, considered attractive, I'm easygoing, with a GSOH. Looking for female company, to socialise with. I like DIY, gardening. Box 884003 **1**

GETTING TO KNOW YOU
James, 55, tall and slim, like the outdoors, eating out, talking and listening, seeking a like-minded woman to spend time with. Box 446539 **1**

COULD WE START AGAIN PLEASE?
Hello, I'm Glen, 56, 5ft7, medium build, smoker, divorced, likes DIY, looking for a female, age and looks not important, for friendship and companionship. Hailsham Box 448412 **1**

POSITIVITY
Separated dad, 57, wants to move on and be happy, enjoys making the most of life, WLTm happy, jolly guy who wants fun in life. Box 448292 **1**

MUSIC OF LOVE
Hi I'm Alfred, 59, 6ft, greyish hair, blue eyes, medium build, looking for a lovely English Rose for lasting love. Box 448243 **1**

LOVE ME, LOVE MY TROLLEY
Tall, dark, divorced male, 53, blonde, fun-loving, seeking a like-minded female to share my Tesco trolley for friendship, hopefully more... Collette, please call again...leave contact details! Box 444251 **1**

YOUR FLEXIBLE FRIEND
Solvent, retired widower, 62, 5ft9, not overweight, N/S, decent, flexible and friendly, likes country music, meals in/out, looking for a female, to build a LTR with. Box 448346 **1**

COME ON OVER
60yrs young, handsome male, 6ft1, athletic, own house/car, loves keep fit, cricket, music classical/blues, cooking, seeking lady to see what happens. Box 438361 **1**

Men seeking men

DRINKS?
Currently looking for fun, friendship, maybe romance with fun male. I'm a 28yr old guy, dark hair/blue eyes, I enjoy bars, clubs, going out. Box 446220 **1**

ARE YOU INTERESTED?
Good guy, looking for male, 35-50, I'm 40, green eyes, dark hair, average build. I enjoy pubs, music, cinema, dining in/out. Box 436613 **1**

ARRESTING LOVE
Hi there, I'm 40, 6ft, green eyes, blond hair, own house, enjoys pubs, keeping fit, seeking similar male, sporty, like cinema. Box 436788 **1**

TALL ORDER
40yr old chap, 5ft8, dark, slim/muscular build, good looking. Looking for a tall guy for fun. Box 439132 **1**

JOINED IN LOVE?
Good-natured, down-to-earth guy, 46, green eyes, dark hair, slim, enjoys holidays, music, pubs, eating in/out, WLTm male, 35-50, for companionship. Box 441106 **1**

TEXT REPLY: For your protection, you will not be allowed to swap contact details until you have exchanged five messages each. **GUIDELINES:** Private individuals seeking long-term, monogamous relationships may advertise in your dating site. We suggest that ads contain self-description, age range, and lifestyle description. We reserve the right to refuse or edit any ad for any reason. Ads may not be submitted by persons younger than 18 years of age for publication in yourkentdating. Also, no details will be published seeking persons younger than 18 years of age. **DISCLAIMER:** KOS Media assumes no liability for the content of or reply to any personal advertisement. The advertiser assumes complete liability for the content of all replies to any advertisement or recorded message and for any claims made against KOS Media as a result thereof. The advertiser agrees to indemnify and hold KOS Media harmless from all costs, expenses (including reasonable solicitor's fees), liabilities and damages resulting from or caused by the publication or recording placed by the advertiser or any reply to any such advertisement. If you are not a BT telephone customer, please contact your service provider for details of their charges. Service provided by g8wave Ltd. **DATA PROTECTION:** The People2People™ service is provided by g8wave Ltd, 10 Tileyard Studios, Tileyard Road, London N7 9AH. g8wave Ltd will collect the details you provide when placing your ad, including your name and address and may use your information to send you details of other related services and events operated by the company. Your name and address, but no other data, may also be passed on to KOS Media who may use it for their own marketing purposes. Your ad may appear in other newspapers and on the People2People™ Internet site. If you are not a BT telephone customer, please contact your service provider for details of their charges. "yourkentdating" is a trademark of g8wave Ltd.

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Hartsdown Technology College

George V Avenue, Margate, Kent CT9 5RE
Telephone: 01843 227957 Fax: 01843 578002



This is a very rare and exciting opportunity as over the next 3 years Hartsdown Technology College will be redesigned and rebuilt as an Innovative centre of Education under the BSF scheme. As a result, there is a real buzz of enthusiasm through the college community.

We are seeking to appoint both a **MATHS** and an **ENGLISH teacher for Summer 09**. This post is open to everyone from a NQT to someone who may wish to become an AST.

- A creative and innovative teacher who can inspire students of all abilities.
- High levels of emotional literacy in and out of the classroom.
- The vision and commitment to help build on high achievement.
- To develop extra curricular aspects of Maths or English.
- In return we offer exceptional support, training and an experienced fully staffed departments both led by outstanding and enthusiastic Directors of Learning.

For further details an application form, please contact Danielle Skinner or e-mail: danielle@hartsdown.kent.sch.uk. Closing date: **2nd February 09**. Informal visits welcome.

Find out more on www.hartsdown.kent.sch.uk "A Good school with outstanding features" Ofsted 2008



Therapeutic Day Programme Workers

£21,244 - £27,492 • 37 HOURS PER WEEK
BASED EAST AND WEST KENT

KCA provides a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors. Working as part of a community team you will be providing a range of services for people with drug and alcohol problems. You will be part of the day programme team, and will be required to take a leading role in the planning and delivery of a structured holistic programme. This includes therapeutic group work, assessment and key working, complementary therapies and one to one counselling.

A qualification to diploma level in counselling with group work experience, preferably in a drug and alcohol day programme or residential setting is required. A BACP accreditation would be advantageous.

Closing date: 9 February 2009.

Interview date: 18 February 2009.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from <http://www.kca.org.uk/pages/vacancies.html> or email recruitment@kca.org.uk Alternatively, write to KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference 546.

We regularly have opportunities for **Community Drug Workers**. Vacancies are advertised on our website and if you would like more information please email recruitment@kca.org.uk

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity no: 292824.

www.kca.org.uk



CharingHealthcare are looking to recruit

MANAGERS and DEPUTIES for care homes in **Maidstone and Dover** areas.

For more information or an informal discussion please call Mrs Heather Viggers on 07534965270 or head office on 01322 385033.

*Any offer of employment will be subject to satisfactory CRB checks.

Poplars Nursing Home

Require a full time

Night Care Assistant

With experience, 44 hours per week

Please contact Philippa for an application pack on 01622 752872

Director of Human Resources MidKent College Medway Kent

Salary circa £75,000 + Generous Benefits Package

MidKent College is the largest provider of education and training in Kent, employing more than 1,000 staff and training over 10,000 students and 3,000 soldiers per year. In these exceptional times we are about to relocate to our £86 million new premises which are nearing completion in Gillingham, we have just commenced service under a Private Public Partnership

delivering training services to the Royal School of Military Engineering in Chatham and we are finalising exciting plans for the redevelopment of our site in Maidstone. To compliment this we are currently looking for a Director of HR to take full responsibility for the strategic and operational development for all aspects of the HR functions within the College.

Role

- Lead the development of a progressive HR function to support the College's ambitious change agenda.
- Forge strong and professional relationships with the Senior Leadership Team and other stakeholders by demonstrating an ability to deliver highly professional services in line with the College vision and values.
- Contribute significantly to the organisational development of the College and make improvements to individual and team performances which in turn will benefit students.

The Candidate

- You will be qualified to a minimum of CIPD graduate level and have senior management experience of a strategic and operational Human Resource role.
- You will have up-to-date knowledge of current and emerging employment legislation and an impressive and proven track record of moving the HR functions forward in a large, complex and changing organisation.
- You will have a demonstrable track record of leading change and improvement, gaining the support of staff and achieving tangible results.
- You will have superb communication skills and the ability to engage effectively with internal and external stakeholders
- You will be a determined, creative and results orientated individual with the ability to influence at all levels.

For full details and application pack please contact Katherine Reilly on 01634 884398 or email Katherine.reilly@midkent.ac.uk

For a confidential discussion about this exciting post please call Ken Pullan (our retained consultant) on 07725 128661. Closing Date: 9th February 2009.



The brand new Medway Campus will replace the College's existing sites at Horsted and City Way.

September 2009 will see the opening of the College's innovative new Medway Campus in Gillingham, and plans are currently being developed for a dazzling transformation of the Maidstone Campus at Oakwood Park.

Career Opportunities



Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer

Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you.

Director of Quality & Innovation

09/01

37 hrs per week, salary range £56,478 to £62,408 per annum

Acting Section Manager NVQs and Professional Studies, Dental, Nursing, Social Care and Counselling

09/02

37 hrs per week, salary starting £33,858 per annum. Fixed Term post ending 31 July 09

Lecturer Animal Care and Land Based

07/87

37 hrs per week salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum. Fixed term post ending 13 July 09

Supply Lecturers Higher Education are required in the following areas

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

HE Tourism Management

S/HE/TOR

Counselling (must hold relevant recognised qualification)

S/HE/COU

Early Years (to teach on Foundations Degrees)

S/HE/EY

Supply Lecturers are required in the following areas

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

Animal Care

S/AC

Veterinary Nursing

S/VET

Supply/Flexibank

S/HSC

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

Midwife (ENB 997)

Registered Nurse (ENB 998)

Mental Health Nurse (ENB 998)

To teach on Maternity Care, Mental Health and Health & Social Care courses.

Supply Lecturers (Teachers/Trainers) are required in the following areas

S/HSC

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

Level 2 & 3 Counselling

Registered Dental Nurse

First Aid Trainer

Information, Advice and Guidance

Citizenship

PE/Sport Trainer

Infant School/Early Years

Advanced Practitioner

02/128

37 hrs per week, salary starting £33,858 per annum

HR Workforce Information Officer

09/03

37 hrs per week, salary starting £16,914 per annum.

Placement Officer

08/127

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £24,408 per annum

Service Desk Technician Level 2

SDT2

37 hrs per week, salary starting £16,914 per annum

Trainer Demonstrator Animal Care

TD13

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting £18,963 pro rata per annum

Resource Assistant Animal Care & Land Based

06/08

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £15,085 pro rata per annum

Learning Support Business

02/17

37 hrs per week, 40 weeks term time. Salary starting £16,914 pro rata per annum.

Teacher Education Administrator

08/124

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting £15,085 pro rata per annum

Supply Curriculum Support Assistant within the Faculty of Health, Public Service, Early Years

S/CSA

Various hours available, salary starting from £18,963 pro rata per annum

Supply Learning Support within Health, Public Services & Early Years

S/LS

Various hours available, salary starting at £16,914 pro rata per annum

Supply Administrator with Health, Public Services & Early Years

S/Admin

Various hours available, salary starting at £15,085 pro rata per annum

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- Pension & Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall & Gym
- Proximity to main bus & train stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 02 February 2009 at 12 noon



CLICK

www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies



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EXTRAORDINARY JOBS. EXTRAORDINARY WORKPLACE.

Do you enjoy working in a challenging environment? Our expanding Works departments have the following opportunities available:

GRADE 2 PLUMBER £20,865 RISING TO £23,055 PER ANNUM HMYOI ROCHESTER & COOKHAM WOOD

HMYOI Rochester is a closed Young Offender Institution, housing approximately 360 18-20 year olds serving sentences of up to four years. It is situated next to HMP Cookham Wood on the outskirts of Rochester. HMYOI Rochester implemented an additional 300 bed temporary custodial facility from Summer 2008 making it one of the largest sentenced Young Offenders Institutions in the UK.

HMYOI Cookham Wood near Rochester has become a Male Juvenile Centre, accommodating 15-17 year olds, commissioned by the Youth Justice Board.

You will be required to work in Rochester and Cookham Wood and will be subject to CRB enhanced clearance.

GRADE 3 PLUMBER £19,851 RISING TO £21,074 PER ANNUM THE WEALD OF KENT RESETTLEMENT HMP BLANTYRE HOUSE & EAST SUTTON PARK

HMP Blantyre House is a semi open resettlement Prison with approximately 120 male prisoners. The Prison is situated in a rural location near Goudhurst.

HMP East Sutton Park first opened as a borstal in 1946. The prison is a Grade 2 listed country mansion house overlooking the Weald of Kent and is used to hold both adult and young offender women in open conditions.

You will be required to work in both Blantyre House and East Sutton Park.

For both positions, you will have gained a recognised apprenticeship and City & Guilds ordinary certificate or equivalent qualification and have proven relevant experience. A City & Guilds advanced certificate or equivalent qualifications, Corgi, Water Supply Regulations course and Water Treatments course would be desirable. You'll work 39 hours per week excluding meal breaks and be expected to work weekends on a rostered shift pattern.

In return, you'll receive 25 days' annual leave plus 10.5 public and privilege holidays per annum and entry into the Civil Service Pension by invitation.

To apply for these posts please email kent-sussex-area-recruitment@hmprisons.gsi.gov.uk
Applicants will require an email address in order for applications to be sent to them.

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is 8 February 2009.

For further information about vacancies within HM Prison Service and about our Prison Establishments please visit www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk

Applicants will be required to declare whether they are a member of a group or organisation, which the Prison Service considers to be racist.

Part-time working or job sharing will be considered.

The Prison Service is an equal opportunities employer. We welcome applications from candidates regardless of ethnic origin, religious belief, gender, age (subject to being within the normal retirement age for the grade), sexual orientation, disability or any other irrelevant factor.



Ministry of
JUSTICE
National Offender
Management Service



Copywriter/Assistant Editor

Salary: £16,000 - £19,000 PA

AJP Publishing based in Gravesend has an exciting opportunity for an enthusiastic person to work on one of the fastest growing B2B websites www.approvedbusiness.co.uk. The successful candidate must have experience of working on websites and some SEO knowledge would be helpful.

Online Sales Executive

Salary £20,000 OTE

AJP is looking to expand its growing and successful online Sales Team. The telesales roll is full time and applicants must demonstrate their sales talents. Experience in online web sales is required.

Please send all CV's to caroline.lutz@ajppublishing.co.uk

**MidKent College**

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Programme Area Leader in Sport

Ref: P0264

Salary: £29,267 - £32,898

We have an exciting opportunity for Programme Area Leader in Sport. You'll assist and support the Head of School in the delivery, management and teaching of all sports related subjects. The successful candidate will be educated to degree level and have a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Sport

Ref: P1000

Salary: £25,092 - £28,719

The College is looking for a passionate and enthusiastic professional to join the Sports team to teach, assess and participate in the development of Sports programmes. The successful candidate will be educated to degree level and have or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification within a specified timeframe.

Instructor/Reviewing Officer

Ref: P0586

Salary: £19,736 -£25,441 pro-rata (22.2 hours per week)

We are looking to appoint a qualified and experienced Assessor/Reviewing Officer for Engineering, Fabrication and Welding. The successful candidate will be highly motivated and able to assess trainees on NVQ qualifications including, 'Train to Gain' learners within our successful Engineering department. A relevant qualification is essential and the successful candidate will have or be willing to work towards Assessor/Verifier and H&S qualifications.

Media Technician

Ref: P1001

Salary: £11,599 - £17,200 pro-rata (18.5 hours per week for 38 weeks)

The Media department is currently looking to expand its provision at Oakwood Park and as a direct result is looking to appoint a Technician to join the team. The ideal candidate will be able to provide technical support to staff and students and will be responsible for setting-up and providing classroom support.

Departmental Administrator

Ref: P0245

Salary: £11,599 - £17,200

We are looking to recruit an Administrator/Secretary with excellent administration and organisational skills, who is able to demonstrate knowledge of office procedures and ability to use MS office packages.

Closing date: Friday, 6 February 2009

Mid-Kent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and anyone applying for work with the College is expected to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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Application forms and further details are available from the Headteacher's Personal Assistant, Mrs M Tong Ralphs. Completed forms should be returned by post, fax or email for the attention of **Mrs E Wilson, Headteacher** no later than **Friday 6th February 2009**

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This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

For an application pack, please write to/telephone (stating the role for which you are applying):

Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP (01634 338224)

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

Closing date: 13.2.2009

PUBLIC NOTICES

The Insolvency Act 1986
AUTO SYSTEMS INDUSTRIES
LIMITED
(In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)

Company No: 03634481
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, David Elliott of Moore Stephens LLP, Victory House, Admiralty Place, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4QU was appointed Liquidator of the said Company by the members and creditors on 21 January 2009.

David Elliott, Liquidator
The Insolvency Act 1986
C.T.F. SUPPLIES LIMITED
Company Number 02954892

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at First Floor, 89 King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1BG, on 30 January 2009, at 10.00 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge a full statement of account (and unless attending in person) a proxy with the Company at the offices of Smith & Williamson Limited, 25 Moorgate, London EC2R 6AY, no later than 12 noon on the business day before the Meeting of Creditors. Secured creditors must, unless they surrender their security, give particulars of their security, the date when it was given, and its assessed value if they wish to vote at the Meeting. Resolutions to be taken at the meeting may include a Resolution specifying the terms upon which the Joint Liquidators are to be remunerated and the creditors may receive information about or be called upon to approve the costs of preparing the Statement of Affairs and the costs of convening the Meeting of Creditors. A list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors will be available for inspection, free of charge, at the offices of Smith & Williamson Limited, 25 Moorgate, London EC2R 6AY between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days prior to the Meeting of Creditors.

Dated: 20 January 2009
By Order of the Board
Andrew Bellamy, Director

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Enterprising advice scheme extended

A SERVICE to encourage disadvantaged people in the south east to set up their own business has been expanded to reach even more potential entrepreneurs.

The Business Link Enterprise Gateway scheme has already helped more than 300 people from deprived areas set up their own companies and thousands more have received guidance and advice.

It aims to help people facing challenges, or those who haven't realised they have a talent for business and enterprise.

During the last five years it has been available in 16 locations across the south east and now it is covering deprived communities across the whole region.

In Kent, the service spans the county and is particularly focused in areas where entrepreneurial activity is low, such as Medway, the Isle of Sheppey, and selected wards in Sittingbourne and Dover.

Enterprise development manager Jane North said: "Our role is to work with individuals who would not normally consider enterprise as a viable option for them."

"They may have faced redundancy, health problems or just been out of the job market for a long time."

For more information, telephone 0845 600 9006, or visit the website by logging on at www.bringyourideastolife.co.uk.

Save money thanks to BCC and Staples tie up

IMPORTANT news for people brave enough to start up a business right now: the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) – the umbrella organisation of local chambers of commerce – and office stationery group Staples have teamed up to launch a extended help-to-go pack.

All start-ups that join the BCC will now receive a 20 per cent discount voucher to spend at their local Staples store.

The pack, which when it was first launched was to help start-ups during their crucial first year, has been extended to take into account the new challenges companies are now facing. Staples have stores across the county.

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Julie Maddocks asks: "In business, is small really beautiful?" Search 'crunch'

'Upbeat' county will weather the storm

■ BY TONY PATEY

THERE may not be any strong green shoots of recovery showing in Kent just yet, but there are some warm breezes blowing through the chilly economic climate.

Businesses across the county are reporting that while the credit crunch has taken a bite out of their business, they are – so far at least – weathering the storms better than elsewhere in the UK.

And much of the reason for the region's resilience is being put down to an increasing export market and a confidence both in the current trading environment and in what the future holds.

The Maidstone Economic Development Group of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce (KICC) found members were showing greater confidence under current conditions than the south east in general, and nationally.

John Taylor, chairman of the MED Group, said: "While these are challenging times, we are heartened by this positive attitude among our members. Clearly things are not as gloomy in Kent as the national picture would suggest."

David Foley, policy director of the Channel Chamber of Commerce which represents much of the east Kent coast, agreed there were relatively bright areas amid the bleakness.

He said exporters especially were in a good position to fend off the crunch with the weak pound.

"The potential for manufacturers in this area is considerable," he said.

Also firms which had a sound ecological base were doing relatively well because of a change in consumer sentiment, with people wanting more environment-friendly goods.

Mr Foley reckoned the three basic principles of good business were price, good quality and



ROUGH TRADE: Many Kent businesses remain upbeat despite the harsh conditions, local chambers of commerce say

service – with service being the clincher in rough trading times.

Peter Hobbs, chief executive of the Channel Chamber, added: "We are seeing lots of small organisations, particularly in the service sector, struggling as their sales begin to tighten."

"As a result they are urgently reviewing their costs and who they buy from, in other words their procurement."

"There are, of course, plenty of opportunities here for local businesses, for example, some local book keepers and accountants are reporting an uplift in clients."

KICC members in the service sector – rather than manufacturing – are upbeat.

During the three months to December, these members reported a "less dire decline" in both home and export sales than the rest of the south east.

Elsewhere, while order books are dipping and cash-flow worsened, KICC members appear to be performing better than elsewhere in the nation.

Interestingly, their levels of business confidence were higher, which is an important factor in getting the economy back on track.

An equal proportion expected sales to rise in 2009 as to fall, and although more expected profits to fall than to rise, this gloom was much less widespread than the rest of the south east, despite the fact that more KICC members were carrying spare capacity.

The higher confidence is reflected in pre-December employment which held steady, unlike the rest of the south east and the UK, and while there were more firms expecting to cut staff than those aiming to hire more, there was less pessimism.



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OVER: Aylesford Bulls' winning run of six games has come to an end but a play-off place is still a target

Bulls will bounce back from defeat, says coach

Aylesford Bulls 0 Old Elthamians 16

RUGBY

AYLESFORD Bulls' six-game winning run was brought to an end with a home defeat to London South East 3 league leaders Old Elthamians.

With Old Elthamians losing just two games all season, Aylesford knew they would have to take their chances if they were to get anything out of the game.

After an even start the visitors broke the deadlock by converting two penalties on 15 and 21 minutes. The Bulls kept pushing for-

ward but were caught out midway through the half as a long pass out wide was intercepted by the Old Elthamians centre, who breezed across the line for a try.

Starting the second half at 13-0, Aylesford had a mountain to climb and they crossed the try line twice, only for the Elthamians defence to prevent the ball being grounded.

In the dying minutes, the visitors made sure of the victory by slotting a penalty to

increase their lead at the top of the division.

Coach Nick France felt his side made a good fight of it against the leaders and insists the Bulls have the strength to challenge for a play-off spot in London South East 3.

He said: "We were not too disappointed with the defeat, we played well but the team we were up against were well drilled defensively and we knew they would be hard to break down. We are still in the hunt at the top end of the league."

This Saturday Aylesford make the trip to face Kent rivals Deal & Betcheshanger.

Racer Mercer set for a busy season

SUPERBIKE rider Steve Mercer has signed for PDM Racing to compete in the British Superstock Championship for 2009.

The Maidstone rider took part in the series last year riding for Kawasaki and a string of good performances saw him promoted to the British Superbike team for two rounds of the British Championship.

Mercer finished 20th in the Superstock championship standings in 2008, and hopes a move to PDM racing will propel him to success this year.

It will be a busy season for the 25-year-old as he also makes his debut in the Isle of Man TT in June.

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Mark Stimson on Gillingham's pursuit of Chris Dickson and other transfer targets

Bears slump in bid to climb the table

BEARSTED missed the chance to move to fifth in the Kent County League Premier Division after falling to a disappointing 3-1 defeat against Rusthall.

The Bears opened the scoring with two minutes on the clock as Ollie Scrivener's cross was headed into the net by Lewis Smith.

From then on the game belonged to Rusthall as they equalised on 15 minutes through Wayne Bulmer. Rusthall kept pushing forward and scored twice before the interval with Dave Burren and Lewis Howard finding the net.

Bearsted dominated the second half but they were unable to salvage a point from the game.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT
glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk



Pictures STEVE TERRELL

DERBY DAY: Maidstone United (in gold) will be looking to battle their way to victory and keep up their push for a play-off spot when they take on Dartford at Princes Park

Stones aim to blunt Darts and boost bid for play-offs

FOOTBALL

■ BY TOM HOWARD

both sides this weekend.

He said: "There is no question it is a big game for us. With us not playing at the weekend, Dartford have gone above us in the league so there is something at stake.

"It is a Kent derby and they are always big games. We did not perform when they came to our place and we lost 1-0 so we will be looking for a better result this time.

"Dartford have been on the rise in recent weeks but I am not surprised as they have a brand new stadium and excellent training facilities."

Dartford striker Cody McDonald has attracted the attention of a whole host of Football League clubs this season after scoring 12 goals in as many games. Stones boss Walker is aware of the striker, but is more concerned with the way his side are going to take the game to Dartford.

He added: "We are not worried about their striker McDonald. We are focusing on our own game and the way we are going to play and cause them problems."

The Stones have no injury worries going into the game, but Walker will have to consider his attacking options as striker James Pinnock will miss the game through suspension. However, goalkeeper Andy Walker could return to the starting line-up after recovering from a shoulder injury.

Whitehead penalty earns a long-awaited victory

RUGBY

BY YOURMAIDSTONE REPORTER

Maidstone 11 Old Colfeians 10

A NUMBER of try-saving tackles in the final minutes saw Maidstone finally clinch their first league win of the season.

The visitors, sitting comfortably in mid-table, proved themselves more than a match for Maidstone in their earlier fixture with Colfeians winning 47-0. Maidstone's much-needed win could be the season's turning point.

Colfeians elected to play through their forwards and early pressure on the Maidstone line resulted in Steve Matthews getting a yellow card for persistent infringement.

Despite the set-back Maidstone began to ease themselves into the game and on the half hour were awarded a penalty 30-metres out, which Craig Whitehead converted to post a 3-0 lead.

Colfeians came back immediately, using their powerful forwards to drive down to Maidstone's 22. They managed to cross the Maidstone line in the corner just before the break to give them the lead and the opening try of the afternoon. They could have extended their lead before the end of added time, but their hooker collected a loose ball and ran unopposed to the try line,



FIRST WIN: Neil Graves (pictured) scores in the first half to briefly give Maidstone the lead which proved crucial

only to put a foot in touch.

Maidstone regained the lead seven minutes into the second half, after a well-worked move saw Tommy King set up Neil Graves to crash over the line out wide. The slender three-point lead was soon under pressure and their number 8 finished off a spell of pressure with a try in the corner to establish a two-point lead for

the visitors.

In the final minute of the game Whitehead slotted over a penalty to nose Maidstone back in front.

With 12 minutes of injury-time left, heroic defending from Maidstone stopped numerous threats to the try line from Old Colfeians to wrap up their first league win of the season.

FOOTBALL



SUPPORT: United's fundraising campaign gathers momentum with the aim of bringing Maidstone home

Supporters step up fundraising plans to help struggling United

AFTER announcing the club needs to raise £740,000 to build the proposed new stadium at James Whatman Way, Maidstone United have been delighted by the response from supporters.

At an open meeting earlier this month, chairman Paul Bowden-Brown revealed to supporters he needs help to build the new stadium to end Maidstone United's 21-year absence from the town.

Since the meeting a fundraising committee has been set up and they held their first meeting last week. More than 30 fundraisers have been assembled into groups to cover the town and will be leading fundraising initiatives starting from February 1.

The club are hoping to run a whole range of different events to help raise the funds needed, including sponsored walks and quiz nights.

Committee member and communication manager Ian Tucker revealed he has been inundated with ideas and is delighted by the response from the supporters. He said: "We have been pleased by the turn out of people who are willing to help this club return home. When we held the meeting asking people to help we were worried that people who said they would help would not turn up but that has not been the case."

"Half the problem is getting the word out there that there is a club to support and we want to return back to Maidstone. Hopefully by the launch of some of the initiatives and the formation of the fundraising committee, the awareness of the club will be raised in the town."

The club has already raised £4,500 from a sponsored walk by 34 supporters from the proposed new stadium site to Tonbridge Angels' Longmead Stadium.

For more information about getting involved, log on to www.bringingfootballhome.co.uk or email maidstoneunited@live.co.uk with fundraising ideas.



CAMP INDIA: Kent Academy director Phil Relf

Future pace bowlers all set for Indian camp

CRICKET

FOUR of Kent's brightest young bowlers have an opportunity to be coached by Australian legend Dennis Lillee at the world renowned MRF pace bowling camp in India.

Two Academy players and two players on development contracts at the St Lawrence Ground are being given a chance to learn and hone their skills thanks to contributions from the Kent Supporters Club and Kent member Charlie Harris.

Academy players Matt Coles, 18, who plays his cricket with Hartley Country Club and Adam Ball, 15, from Bexley, will be heading to Chennai, together with development contract players Phil Edwards, 24, from Gore Court and Warren Lee, 21, from Blackheath.

Academy director Phil Relf, who will be leading the group to India, said it will be a big opportunity for Kent's future pace bowlers and that it couldn't have been done without the two benefactors.

"Indian conditions are demanding with the climate and different wickets so it will be a steep learning curve," he said. "We want to get as much time with Dennis Lillee as possible as that will be a valuable experience."

They leave for the ten day trip on Friday. If you'd like to help sponsor the Academy, contact Phil Relf on 01227 456886.

Indoor title heroics spoiled after defeat to Spencer

HOCKEY

Maidstone 4 Spencer 5

CLINCHING the National Indoor Division 2 title was a major achievement but Maidstone were brought back down to earth after defeat to Spencer in the South Hockey League.

Maidstone provided the shock of the National Indoor tournament earlier this month, clinching four wins including victories against Cannock, University of Exeter, Southgate and Sheffield Bankers.

A 4-4 draw in their final game against fellow Kent rivals Holcombe saw Maidstone finish as champions.

Fresh from their success, captain Chris Brinn was hoping it would be the tonic needed to move up the South Hockey Premier League table.

However, visitors Spencer, who are third in the league, had other ideas, but were pushed all the way by a battling Maidstone side.

Spencer, who have lost just three times this season, broke through the Maidstone defence five times and Brinn's side were forced to rue their defensive display.

When attacking, Maidstone were clinical as in-form forward Chris Bassano-Harper grabbed a hat-trick.

Steve Waldrom scored a fourth, but their efforts proved to be in vain as Spencer grabbed a crucial fifth goal to clinch a 5-4 win.

The result means Maidstone stay eighth in the league, four points adrift of seventh-placed Oxford University.

If Maidstone can improve their defensive



NARROW DEFEAT: Maidstone failed to produce the form which saw them lift the National Indoor Division 2 title

display enough to ably back up their undoubted prowess in attack, they have the potential to make a late surge up the table.

On Saturday, Maidstone take on basement side Tulse Hill & Dulwich.

The weekend was made worse for Maidstone as they crashed out of the Kent Cup, losing 4-3 to holders Gore Court.

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MRR OTR PRICE*	TOTAL DEPOSIT (Includes Citroën UK cashback of £200)	AMOUNT OF CREDIT	NUMBER OF PAYMENTS
£8,445	£1,300	£7,145	36
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE INCLUDING OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT	OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT	AGREED ANNUAL MILEAGE	EXCESS MILEAGE CHARGE
£9,409.20	£3,646.08	6,000	7.11p PER MILE

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*ON THE ROAD RECOMMENDED PRICES AND OFFERS APPLY TO QUALIFYING NEW CITROËN VEHICLES ORDERED 05-31/01/09 AND REGISTERED BY 31/03/09 AND INCLUDE VAT, DELIVERY TO DEALER AND NUMBER PLATES, GOVERNMENT FIRST REGISTRATION FEE, AND 12 MONTHS' GRADUATED VEHICLE EXCISE DUTY. BLACK/METALLIC PAINT OPTIONAL AT EXTRA COST. **FINANCE SUBJECT TO STATUS. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM CITROËN FINANCIAL SERVICES, QUADRANT HOUSE, PRINCESS WAY REDHILL, SURREY RH1 1QA, UK. OVER 18S ONLY. A GUARANTEE MAY BE REQUIRED. ▲ 2 YEARS' UNLIMITED MILEAGE WARRANTY, NO-FEE CUSTOMER OPTION OF 3RD YEAR DEALER PROVIDED EXTENDED WARRANTY, UP TO A 3 YEAR TOTAL OF 60,000 MILES, ONLY ON NEW CARS SOURCED FROM CITROËN UK LTD. OFFERS, PRICES AND SPECIFICATION CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS FROM PARTICIPATING DEALERS FOR PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS AND QUALIFYING BUSINESS USERS. TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY. PLEASE ASK US FOR DETAILS. COMPANIES WITH A CENTRALLY NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT WITH CITROËN UK LTD, NATIONAL FLEETS, MOTABILITY AND CONTRACT HIRE ARE EXCLUDED FROM THESE OFFERS. ALL MODELS SUBJECT TO STOCK AVAILABILITY. FINANCE OFFERS APPLY TO UK MAINLAND ONLY. ▲ AIRDREAM. THIS SIGNATURE REPRESENTS OUR COMMITMENT TO MAKE AFFORDABLE CARS WITH LESS THAN 120G/KM CO₂ EMISSIONS, WITH MANUFACTURING QUALITY ISO14001 AND 95% MATERIAL RECOVERABILITY.